

## Party standings echo 1983 election result

# Key seats poll gives Tories victory by 140

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

Mrs Margaret Thatcher and the Conservative Party could be heading for a victory margin at this election as large as the one they enjoyed in 1983.

In an exclusive *Times*/MORI opinion poll, the first conducted entirely since the election was called, it is revealed that in the crucial Conservative/Labour marginal seats — those which Labour would have to capture if it were to have any chance of gaining the 117 seats it requires to form a government — the Labour Party has not made any progress since the last general election.

All the parties stand almost

exactly where they did in 1983. The MORI poll, conducted from May 11 to 13 in the 73 key marginals, reveals that in the Conservative/Labour marginals, the voting support was Conservatives 41 per cent, Labour 33 per cent, Alliance 24 per cent and others 2 per cent.

That represents virtually no change from the figures recorded in those same marginal

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seats at the last election when the Conservatives had a majority of 144. Labour has exactly the same share of the vote as it did then, the Conservatives have dropped 1 per cent and the Alliance has gained 1 per cent.

If the poll on June 11 were to see that pattern repeated on a uniform swing Mrs Thatcher could be returned to power with a virtually untruncated majority of 140. The Conservatives would have 395 seats to 215 for Labour, 17 for the Alliance and 23 for other parties.

This compares with 1983 when the Conservatives had 397 seats, Labour 209, the Alliance 23 and others 21.

On those figures, the Conservatives would notationally lose Hyndburn, Leicester South and Nottingham North as well as Renfrew West, Clwyd South-West and Bradford North, three three-way marginals, to Labour. They would win the Isle of Wight, Colne Valley, Gordon, Montgomery, Ross and Cromarty, Stockton S and

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## Britain closer to missiles accord

By Nicholas Beeston

Britain is prepared to accept a "zero-zero" agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union on shorter-range missiles, provided the conditions adequately safeguard Western security, a Foreign Office spokesman announced yesterday.

The move was interpreted as an important political step by the Government in the run-up to the general election. Britain is now the first major

Mr Denis Healey last night made a scathing attack on General Bernard Rogers, Nato's European commander, for interfering in the election campaign through his remarks in a BBC interview on Wednesday night. Page 20

Western European power to accept conditionally the zero-zero proposal for shorter-range missiles known as SRINF.

The proposal, which was first made by the Soviet leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, to the US Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, during his visit to Moscow earlier this year, coincides with Nato talks in Stavanger, Norway, on nuclear weapons reductions.

Mrs Thatcher has now taken the lead among European nations over the proposed cuts. Fears that the reductions would leave Europe undefended have already caused severe concern in West Germany and France, which have yet to clarify their positions.

A diplomatic source said that, as a precondition to accepting a zero-zero agreement, Britain would require adequate verification procedures and insist that the reduction was global and not just confined to Europe.

The Foreign Office said that Nato was studying what level best met its requirements, and the source added that a final position was expected to be resolved in the course of consultations with Nato allies "in the coming weeks".

● STAVANGER: A political pact between Britain, the United States and West Germany appears to have been made to consider the deployment of a new layer of nuclear weapons in Europe in the event of an arms deal with the Soviet Union this year (Our Defence Correspondent writes).

The tripartite move became evident yesterday during secret meetings between the defence ministers of the three countries "in the margins" of the Nato Nuclear Planning

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Transplant success: Moran Kadosh, a four-year-old Israeli girl recovering from a life-saving liver transplant operation paid for by a £45,000 whip-round on the plane bringing her to Britain, leaving Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, yesterday.

## Live donors give hearts

By Jill Sherman

The first British heart transplant operations using living donors have been carried out by Professor Magdi Yacoub, at Harefield Hospital in Middlesex.

Two women gave their own healthy hearts to a man and a woman waiting for transplants before receiving heart/lung transplants themselves from two people believed to have been accident victims.

Earlier this week, surgeons at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, in Baltimore, America, claimed they were the first in the world to perform this kind of operation using a live donor.

But it was revealed yesterday that Professor Yacoub had carried out one series of operations at the end of April and the other at the beginning of this month.

One of the women who received the new heart at Harefield has subsequently died, but the other two women and the man, who have still not been named, are making a good recovery, a hospital spokesman said yesterday. All the patients are believed to have come from abroad.

The spokesman said that in the past few weeks the hospital had had patients with severe lung conditions but with healthy hearts. "Professor Yacoub and his team decided that rather than waste the healthy hearts, they would use them on other patients."

The two operations mark a new phase in the heart/lung transplant programme. Surgeons say lung transplants alone are far more complicated than heart/lung transplants and the success rate is not as high. With the double transplant, vital connections between the lung and heart, which would have been severed, can be maintained.

The patient needing the heart/lung transplant is put on a heart/lung machine and both organs are removed. The lung is then discarded and the heart is either transplanted "warm" immediately into the person needing a heart transplant, or it is cooled and preserved for several hours. Meanwhile the new heart and lungs are given to the first patient.

The difference between a live heart donor and a conventional heart transplant using organs from someone who has died, is that the donor is on a heart/lung machine rather than a ventilator.

The Harefield spokesman said that heart/lung transplant operations have now been carried out on 87 patients at the hospital, of whom 50 are still living. Only three lung transplants have been performed, although all three patients are still alive.

## Fiji in shock after coup by military

From Stephen Taylor, Suva, Fiji

Fiji, the bastion of democracy in the South Seas, ended its first day under military rule yesterday in a state of confusion and shock.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka, third in command of the Royal Fiji Military Forces, has effectively seized power after he and fellow officers marched into Parliament and detained at gunpoint the recently elected Prime Minister, Dr Timoci Bavadra, and 27 of his government colleagues.

But by the end of the day there was an impasse between Colonel Rabuka and Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau, who as Governor-General, is the Queen's representative in Fiji.

Colonel Rabuka announced the formation of a Council of Ministers, with himself at the head, and including Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, the former Prime Minister ousted in last month's election.

But Ratu Ganilau issued a statement denouncing the coup move and declaring a state of emergency.

In a statement which he managed to release from his captivity, Dr Bavadra welcomed the support his Government had received from Australia and New Zealand, and said he expected the situation to be resolved.

Despite the military's takeover of the radio, no steps have been taken so far to interfere with newspapers, but Colonel Rabuka said yesterday that he had "neutralized" the elected Government and would replace it with "semi-military" rule.

By the end of the day there had been no sign of a violent backlash by an electorate deprived of its April victory.

● LONDON: Buckingham Palace confirmed yesterday that the Fijian Governor-General, Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau, had contacted the Queen after the coup attempt (Nicholas Beeston writes). It is believed that the Queen, as the Fijian Head of State, approved Sir Ganilau's action to proclaim a state of emergency.

Mr Paul Channon, the Trade and Industry Secretary, refused to reveal the detailed terms of the way the money will be repaid because, he said, it was "commercial in confidence".

But Sir Austin Pearce, chairman of the company, said that it would enable work to go ahead until 1990.

By making the announce-

## S Africans expel TV journalists

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Two British television correspondents, Mr Mike Buerk of the BBC and Mr Peter Sharp of ITN, were told yesterday by the South African Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, that their temporary work permits would not be renewed when they expire later this month.

Mr Buerk's work permit runs out on May 24 and Mr Sharp's on May 22. Both men were told that they must leave South Africa on or before those dates. Mr Botha gave no reasons for his decision.

The Government also cancelled the exemption from a visa requirement for entry to South Africa which Mr Buerk and Mr Sharp, like other British citizens, previously enjoyed. This means they will not be able to come here without special permission.

It is feared that the action against the BBC and ITN could be the first moves in a further tightening of controls on the already curtailed activities of journalists operating in South Africa.

## Lawson sets target of income tax below 25p

By Richard Evans, Political Correspondent

Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, yesterday dangled the prospect of slashing income tax to less than 25p in the pound.

Lawson's tax bonus came as he said the Conservative "agenda for the future" would include more privatization, even wider share ownership and the elimination of inflation.

With the budget reduction

in income tax from 29p to 27p in the pound due to go into the people's pay packets next week, Mr Lawson told the Scottish Conservative Conference he planned to further reduce the burden of income tax with a basic rate of "no more" than 25p in the pound.

"Jobs only come from a vigorous economy, and that means reducing taxes, and

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## Jobless total down 36,000

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

Unemployment fell by 36,242 last month to stand at 3,107,128. The fall means the total number of jobless in the last figures to be issued before the general election is now 225,000 lower than at its peak last September.

Seasonally-adjusted unemployment figures, thought to give a better guide to the labour market, fell for the tenth consecutive month, suggesting the situation has been improving since last summer. Last month, the numbers out of work fell by an estimated 19,600, seasonally adjusted to 3,02 million. This was a slightly smaller drop than the average for the past six months of 23,000.

Unemployment now stands at 10.9 per cent of the working population, compared with a revised peak of 11.6 per cent last summer. Data has been revised to take account of the usual annual updating of seasonal adjustment factors.

Before seasonal adjustment, the numbers out of work,

Young's new job

including school leavers, fell last month by 36,000 to 3.11 million.

All parts of England and Wales enjoyed some drop in unemployment but there was an increase in Northern Ireland and Scotland. In mainland Britain the worst unem-

ployment blackspot is still the North where 15.5 per cent of the workforce was unemployed, compared with 7.9 per cent in the South-east.

The figures provoked immediate controversy. Labour claimed they understated the true level of unemployment. "Despite 19 fiddles and 750,000 people on temporary schemes, they still have not managed to cut unemployment," Mr John Prescott, Labour's employment spokesman, said.

But the allegations were rejected by Lord Young of Gifford, the Secretary of State for Employment, who described the figures as "extremely good news".

## Deathbed revelation uncovers lost Stradivarius

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

One of Stradivarius' most famous violins, unheard of since it was stolen during a concert at Carnegie Hall in New York in 1936, has been found as a result of a deathbed confession by a Connecticut musician.

Julian Altman told his wife Marcelle Hall to "do something about that violin" in 1985 as he lay dying of stomach cancer in Torrington hospital in the United States, where he had been transferred from jail. He was a womanizer and a gambler who made a living playing the violin at restaurants and society functions.



## NEWS SUMMARY

## Postal union to ballot on strike

Postal deliveries still face the threat of disruption although 165,000 members of the Union of Communications Workers yesterday accepted a 5.1 per cent pay offer which will add \$91 million a year to the Post Office's £1.75 billion pay bill.

Union leaders still intend at their annual conference next week to recommend a ballot for strike action because of the Post Office's refusal to concede a reduction in hours.

Management has argued that shorter hours would result in a lower pay offer or an increase in postal charges.

Under the pay deal, union members will get the percentage increase or £5.30 a week, whichever is the greater.

## Power unions' threat

Leaders of the four electricity supply manual unions will meet next week to consider an overtime ban in power stations after Electricity Board officials rejected an increase to their 5 per cent pay offer.

The 80,000 power manual workers voted in a secret ballot by more than five-to-two to support industrial action. The unions, the General and Municipal Workers Union, the TGWU, the EETPU and the AEU, said that with profits of about £1,000 million a year, the board could afford at least the average 7.5 per cent increase being paid in the private sector.

The last time full-scale industrial action was taken in power stations was in 1970.

Next week's meeting of the unions will be considering ways of hitting the profits of the industry by such action as overtime bans.

## Divorce QC dies

Mr Joseph Jackson, QC, one of the country's leading divorce lawyers, died yesterday at the age of 63.

Mr Jackson was called to the bar in 1947 and had been a Queen's Counsel since 1967. He was involved in almost every divorce of note, including those of John and Cynthia Lennon, Sir Freddie Laker and the late Peter Sellers, and he edited several law books on divorce.

He was married to Mrs Justice Booth, a judge in the Family Division of the High Court.

## Alibi charges

Four men were yesterday charged at Horseferry Road Magistrates Court, central London, with providing a false alibi for a man jailed for his part in the robbery of gold worth £23 million from the Brink's Mat warehouse.

Michael Carr, aged 38, of Sidcup, Kent, and Peter Killick, aged 45, of Peckham, south London, were granted bail on sureties of £10,000 each. Shaun McDermot, aged 37, and Kevin McDermot, aged 31, both of Peckham, were remanded in custody for one week.

## Irish passport charge

A Libyan, Abdel Belgacem, aged 42, was yesterday charged with conspiring with missing Irish passport officer Kevin McDonald to obtain Irish passports for his family.

Mr Belgacem of Broadbush Park, Cricklewood, north-west London, was accused of conspiring to obtain four Irish passports by deception, dishonestly obtaining a British passport and entering the UK at Heathrow not being a British citizen on or before May 12.

Bow Street magistrate Mr William Robins granted him bail of two sureties of £25,000, with the conditions that his passport be forfeited, that he lives with one of the sureties, and that £50,000 and property deeds be deposited with his solicitor. He will next appear on June 11.

## Bishop rethinks

The Bishop of London, Dr Graham Leonard, has backed away from holding immediate talks with the Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches over his opposition to the ordination of women.

Dr Leonard had considered holding talks on a possible relationship with non-Anglican episcopal churches, after the General Synod vote earlier this year in favour of ordaining women.

He said yesterday that this was no longer his immediate intention.

## Farm's golden trove

A farm worker has unearthed three Bronze Age gold bracelets in the corner of a Cornish field.

The bracelets, thought to be about 3,000 years old, were found near the historic village of Chysauster, near Penzance. They weigh between 28 and 30 grams each and measure about three inches in diameter.

They are to be the subject of an inquest at Penzance next month when a jury will decide whether the farm worker can keep them or whether, as treasure trove, they will go to the Duchy of Cornwall. In the event of the latter, the farm worker would receive compensation.

## IRA claims some escaped SAS ambush

By Richard Ford

The Provisional IRA claimed yesterday that several of its men escaped the SAS ambush at Loughgall in which eight terrorists and a civilian were shot dead.

Although the RUC has constantly denied that any of the terrorist gang got away, the Provisional IRA says in this week's *Republican News* that "volunteers" who escaped have been taken to a secure location.

On the night of the ambush two RUC officers manning a

checkpoint near the Co Armagh village said they were searching for men who had managed to get away from the ambush by running across fields.

Other people in Northern Ireland have suspected that there must have been a look-out and getaway vehicles involved in a terrorist operation taking place in a staunchly loyalist area and led by three of the Provisional IRA's leading terrorists.

Meanwhile security sources in the north believe Colonel Gaddafi is supplying the Pro-

visional IRA with funds running into millions of pounds and providing the explosives used in a recent letter-bomb campaign in England and found in handmade grenades and rocket launchers used in recent attacks in the north.

The plastic explosive, known as Semtex, is manufactured in Czechoslovakia and finds its way to Ireland via North Africa and Europe. A quantity of the explosive along with other bomb-making equipment was found several years ago in a house in north Dublin and earlier this

year a 200lb cache was discovered in Cheshire.

Last night British and Irish security authorities were investigating the reports that fresh support was being given by Libya in retaliation for Britain's part in the United States air raid on Tripoli.

Mr Brian Lenihan, the Irish Republic's Minister for Foreign Affairs told the Dail that any support for the Provisional IRA either moral or material was "totally abhorrent".

Security sources in the

north say there is no evidence linking Semtex with the bomb which killed Lord Justice Sir Maurice Gibson last month.

Until now the IRA has had to rely for most of its explosives on relatively weak and unstable home-made compounds, saving its stores of commercial explosives for the bombing of prestige targets.

As Mr Lenihan was speaking in the Dail five members of the "loyalist" para-military Ulster Defence Association lobbied deputies and the public at the gates of Leinster House.

## Young to spearhead super ministry to promote jobs

By Sheila Gunn, Political Staff

Mrs Margaret Thatcher plans to set up a Department of Enterprise headed by Lord Young of Grafton if the Conservatives win a third term on June 11.

The department will oversee all the Government's training and employment initiatives, absorbing the Department of Employment and some parts of the Department of Education and Science.

It will mean a bigger role for Lord Young, Secretary of State for Employment, who is one of the Prime Minister's closest advisers. He is known to want more influence in preparing youngsters to face the changing employment scene as the next step in his campaign for developing a better trained workforce.

Mrs Thatcher is also expected to alter the responsibilities of other government departments to prevent overlapping and to take account of the effect of privatization and changing priorities on Whitehall.

She intends to solve differences between the Department of the Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food by giving control for "green" conservation policies to the agriculture department. The aim is to have a unified strategy for farmland.

The Department of Health and Social Security is expected to be split in two again.

Another plan is believed to involve the eventual disappearance of the Department of Energy in the aftermath of the expected privatization of the electricity supply industry.

● The latest jobsless total "hides" about half a million

people and the true figure should be about 3.5 million, according to a report into the way the Government defines and presents the unemployment figures.

*Declining Unemployment: A Statistical Illusion?* is a report published by Mr John Shields, a former economic

Westland last night announced that 837 employees at its Weston-Super-Mare plant were to be made redundant because of a lack of orders for helicopters.

The job losses among managerial, clerical, administrative and engineering staff come after Wednesday's announcement that 1,155 jobs were to go at its Yeovil factory.

The cuts come in spite of the Government placing an order last month for 48 helicopters estimated to cost £300 million.

adviser to the Treasury. Mr Shields is director of Charter for Jobs, an all-party organization campaigning for decisive action to reduce unemployment.

It was created in April 1985 in association with the Employment Institute and has Mr Edward Heath, Sir James Callaghan and Lord Wilson of Rievaulx as its patrons.

The report was published to coincide with the announcement of the latest unemployment total and says that there is no sign that jobs are being created at a faster rate than in previous years.

Had it not been for the effects of the Government's job programmes and definitional and other changes made to the unemployment

count, official figures would be half a million higher.

Mr Shields says that unemployment rose by half a million between March 1983 and March this year because only one-third of a million additional people gained full-time jobs in the period.

Such a performance was not good enough to cope with the growth in population, although the rise of about half a million in the number of people of working age was no greater than in comparable periods in the 1970s.

Claims that more than one million jobs had been created are shown to rely on the inclusion in the figures of 300,000 part-time jobs taken by "double-jobbers", 200,000 extra places on government schemes and 300,000 other part-time jobs.

Mr Shields says that over the past year, government schemes and, more importantly, administrative and statistical changes had a big effect on the count.

The Charter organization is mainly funded by the Rowntree Trust and is controlled by a council with about 80 members, including Sir Ian Gilmour, Mr Francis Pym, Mr Richard Wainwright, Mr Shirley Williams, Mr Roy Jenkins, Mr Denis Healey, Mr Michael Meacher, Mr David

Basnett, the former leader of the General, Municipal, Boilermakers and Allied Trades Union, Mr David Lea, assistant general secretary of the TUC, the Right Rev David Sheppard, Bishop of Liverpool, and Mr Derek Warlock. The arts are represented by John Clee, the actor, and Margaret Drabble.

## University College, Cardiff

## £10m lifeline to clear debts

By Sarah Thompson, Education Reporter

The Government is saving University College, Cardiff from bankruptcy with £10 million in interest-free loans and grants, the University Grants Committee announced yesterday.

The cash is available only if the college dismisses or obtains the resignation of its principal, Dr Bill Bevan, and "takes all reasonable steps" to sue and surcharge members of staff responsible for the financial mess which has left the college £4.5 million in debt.

College authorities refused to comment on the conditions or to indicate whether Dr Bevan would resign. The conditions are to be discussed by Professor Lee Sheridan, the acting principal, with the committee.

Last week Mr Kenneth

Baker, the Secretary of State for Education and Science, made clear that he could not offer Government funds to help unless there was a "change of management" at the college.

The money has been forced from the Government in the light of an important merger between the college and the University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology.

The college is ordered to overhaul thoroughly its financial management structure under close scrutiny by the Department of Education and Science and by the grants committee, whose chairman, Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer, said that the college's financial problems "were the result of serious financial mismanagement".

The second part is a grant to cover the cost of premature retirements.

Yesterday, after the announcement of the resignation of the chairman of the college council, Sir William Crawshaw, another prominent member of the council resigned - Mr Tom Roberts, an honorary fellow and life governor of the college and a former director of the Development Corporation for Wales.

Mr Roberts was not available for comment and Sir William would not discuss the reasons for his resignation.

Sir Peter told the college that the £10 million, which will be made available before April 1988, was "in broadly equal parts". The first is an interest-free loan.

The second part is a grant to cover the cost of premature retirements.

## Water pollution

## State of rivers deteriorates

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Pollution of Britain's rivers is again on the increase after 25 years of continuous improvement, a Commons select committee reported yesterday.

The all-party environment committee blames water authorities which are releasing sub-standard sewage effluent into rivers, and an increase in the number of one-off pollution incidents, particularly by farmers using intensive agricultural techniques that produce huge quantities of sludge and slurry.

Reported incidents rose from 13,000 to 20,000 in the five years to 1985.

The committee says that the quality of rivers and estuaries is generally high, but it notes

that only 12 per cent of the 18,750 miles of rivers in England and Wales had improved between 1980 and 1985 while 14 per cent had deteriorated. This new trend was "bad news" and it was likely to get worse.

The committee, chaired by Sir Hugh Rossi, Conservative MP for Hornsey and Wood Green, expresses "considerable concern" at the failure of water authorities to comply with the standards laid down. Last year 22 per cent of all sewage works were breaching those standards 95 per cent of the time.

The report points to a steady drop in investment from the mid-1970s to the early 1980s with the result that

sewage works were now overloaded and prone to failure.

New developments had also put extra strain on them. Investment of £2,200 million was planned for the next four years but the committee had the overriding impression that it will be an uphill struggle for the water authorities to improve water quality.

But it also notes the tiny ratio of prosecutions to pollution incidents and recommends not only that the water authorities should prosecute more frequently but that the Department of Environment should itself prosecute the water authorities.

*Third Report of the Environment Committee, Pollution of Rivers and Estuaries.* Anglers win case, page 5

## Firms try to save scenic railway

A scheme to save the beautiful Settle-Carlisle railway line, involving sponsorship by a group of civil engineering contractors, is under consideration by the Department of Transport (Our Transport Correspondent writes).

British Rail has been pressing the Government to allow it to close the line, but has been

opposed by councils and pressure groups.

It is estimated that repairs to viaducts and bridges, costing up to £4.3 million, are urgently required in addition to nearly £1 million a year which British Rail estimates will have to be spent.

A small number of civil engineering contractors are understood to have ap-

proached Mr David Mitchell, Minister of State at the Department of Transport, with proposals for a sponsorship scheme designed to reduce the financial burden.

Apart from the capital costs, British Rail has estimated that the line would lose about £1 million a year, though these figures are hotly disputed.

## Engine failures ground Chinook

By Harvey Elliott  
Air Correspondent

The last three commercial Chinook helicopters operating in Europe have been grounded after two incidents of engine failure within nine days.

The helicopters, operated by the Norwegian company Helikopter Service, are identical to the one owned by British International Helicopters which crashed off the Shetlands killing 45 men.

Experts from the company have flown to Aberdeen and have tried to recreate the incidents in a simulator while both engines have been flown to America for tests.

The two new incidents are almost certain to spell the end of civilian operations by the Chinook even though Boeing and BHI believe that modifications made to the gear box have now prevented any likelihood of a repeat of the circumstances which led to the disaster.

But the two new incidents are unconnected with the cause of the crash off the Shetlands and have highlighted another area of concern.

The first incident, on April 23, happened as a Chinook carrying a full load of 44 oil men was on its way to the Ekofisk field in the Norwegian section of the North Sea. One of the two Avco Lycoming engines seized up but the pilot was able to land safely.

On May 1, another Chinook had an identical problem while flying at 3,000 feet as it too headed towards the Ekofisk field.

The helicopter fell more than 1,500 feet towards the sea and the crew were making plans for an emergency ditching when the pilot was finally able to regain control.

The Civil Aviation Authority in London is in close touch with the Norwegian aviation authorities.

Meanwhile the three remaining Chinooks - owned by BHI are flying on training missions only.

## CPSA vote on Labour support

By Tim Jones

Leaders of Britain's biggest Civil Service union, which could be about to come under the control of the hard left, were instructed yesterday to ballot members on affiliating to the Labour Party.

Delegates to the Civil and Public Services Association annual conference in Blackpool, decided by 75,461 to 63,043 a card vote to support a motion for affiliation together with a vigorous campaign for a "yes" vote, against the advice of the moderate leadership.

However, it is doubtful whether a national ballot will commit the union to an overtly political stance for the first time in 60 years, in spite of the enthusiasm of the delegates, most of whom are Labour supporters.

The union should learn next week whether Mr John Macrae, the militant supporter, has been successful in his bid to become deputy general secretary.

The announcement of the result has been delayed after complaints from more than 100 branches, that their ballot papers were not counted.

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He had been educated at Mill Hill and Worcester College, Oxford. After a period on the Stock Exchange, travelling, and running his own art gallery in London, he returned to academic studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, where he became a student and then a life-long passion for the art of the Middle East. His studies led to several periods in the Middle East where he also served as Assistant Director of the British Institute of Persian Studies in Tehran.  
His academic studies, writings and acquisitions were especially related to Iran where he collected and travelled extensively.  
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## Jury told to ignore social services' role in Kimberley case

Jurors hearing the case of Kimberley, the girl aged four who it is alleged was battered to death at her home in south London, have been warned against being "sidetracked" by the role played by the social services.

Mr Justice Steyn told the jury at the Central Criminal Court that it was inconceivable that there would not be an inquiry into the way that Greenwich social services discharged its duties. But he said it was the public duty of the jury to concentrate on the charges against the defendants.

Mrs Pauline Carlile, Kimberley's mother, is accused of cruelty, causing grievous bodily harm, and assaulting and wounding the child. She was cleared of murder and manslaughter on the direction of the judge.

Mr Nigel Hall, the man with whom she lived, is charged with murdering Kimberley, causing her grievous bodily harm, and wounding and assaulting her.

The prosecution has alleged that Mr Hall, aged 34, battered, burnt and tortured the girl at their home on the Ferrier estate, Kidbrooke.

All the charges are denied. Mr Justice Steyn, at the start of his summing up, told the jury that they would have to look again at distressing

photographs of Kimberley. "You see an emaciated body with many scars and many injuries. An awful picture."

He said: "You may think that Greenwich social services, although they were extremely worried about Kim, abandoned her in the last couple of months of her life."

"On the evidence in this case that may be an entirely understandable point of view, but neither you nor I are called upon to examine and pass judgement on the conduct of the social services."

"It is your public duty to concentrate on the charges against the defendants. Put to one side any views you may have formed on the way Greenwich social services discharged their duty."

"If that causes you anxiety, let me give you this comfort. Our society expects the highest standards from the social services system, notably in relation to very young and very vulnerable children. It is inconceivable that there will not be an independent and wholly impartial inquiry."

Earlier the court was told that Mrs Carlile, aged 27, would live for the rest of her life with the memory that she had failed her daughter when the child needed her most.

Mr Andrew Patience, for Mrs Carlile, said that although the case against his client of

wilfully neglecting Kimberley had been "clearly and unequivocally" proved, Mrs Carlile had never encouraged or wanted the starlings or beatings the girl suffered before she died in June last year.

"She has spoken of occasions when the violence grew worse and she shouted at Hall to stop, she pulled at his arms and tried to get into the bathroom when he wouldn't let her in. They were hopeless, feeble efforts — but efforts."

Mr Patience said the reasons that Mrs Carlile failed Kimberley and did nothing lay in her past history. She had been battered by men in the past and when she came to London she was not a confident, self-assured personality but was someone fearful and terrified of men. This did not provide an excuse but perhaps an explanation.

Mrs Helen Grindrod, QC, for Mr Hall, said that he had been painted by the prosecution and Mrs Carlile in colours "so garish and horrible he appears a very monster."

But Mr Hall had helped Mrs Carlile and had taken responsibility for her children.

Kim was displaying behavioural problems of an extreme sort. "But don't say to yourselves, 'Well, Hall's the man'."

The jury will retire today to consider its verdict.



Sir Thomas Hetherington, who celebrates 10 years as Director of Public Prosecutions tomorrow, with the mounting piles of paper he has to deal with.

tion service, the DPP's job is more administrative and managerial."

Among the famous cases before the courts in Sir Thomas's time as DPP were the trial of the Liberal MP and leader, Mr Jeremy Thorpe, acquitted of charges of conspiracy and incitement to murder Norman Scott in 1978, and the Yorkshire Ripper trial in 1981.

Sir Thomas sees the birth of the

crown prosecution service in April last year as the pinnacle of his career. "It's been an enormous challenge, and fun, to have seen what started as theory in the late 70s through legislation to now, when it has become a reality; and I feel privileged to have been part of that change, the biggest to the criminal justice system for a century."

(Photograph: Graham Wood)

## Portfolio Gold—Deacon is first once again

One of the first women to be ordained deacon by the Church of England at St Paul's Cathedral is the sole winner of the Portfolio Gold competition prize of £4,000.

The Rev Jacqueline Fox, aged 44, of Roman Close, Avenue Gardens, Acton, west London, said she would spend the money on decorating and furnishing her home.

Miss Fox, a senior education officer attached to St Mary's parish in Acton, was one of 70 ordained deacons at St Paul's in March after seven years as chaplain to the Royal College of Music.

She said: "I am still bemused by my win and it has not quite sunk in. I have been checking my numbers every so often but could not believe it when I realized I had won."

Readers can obtain a Portfolio Gold card by sending a stamped addressed envelope to:

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## World numbers rise by 150 a minute

World population is due to pass the five billion mark some time within the next few weeks, a United Nations seminar in London was told yesterday.

Every minute the world population grows by 150; every day by 220,000 and every year by more than 80 million.

At this rate it would reach six billion by the year 2,000, seven billion by 2010 and eight billion by 2022. Then, according to the latest estimates, it would finally become

stable at about 10 billion in about a century or so from now.

Mr Lester Brown, president of the Worldwatch Institute, who was addressing the opening session of a three-day conference called The State of World Population 1987, said that the main challenge facing the governments of most countries in the Third World was how to persuade their populations to reduce birth-rates at a time when economic and social conditions are declining.

If they failed, economic deterioration could eventually lead to social disintegration of the kind which undermined earlier civilizations when population demands became unsustainable, Mr Brown said.

Between 1950 and the mid-1970s, countries such as Mexico and Egypt had benefited from the green revolution and the rapid rise in international oil prices, but had been unable to keep pace with their population growths, Mr Brown said.

A report to be published by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities next Tuesday will reject the theory that greater numbers of people will themselves resolve any problems created by higher population densities because the extra number of people will increase the stock of human ingenuity.

This did not happen with the Mayan civilization in Central America or in China, where the population pressure on land blocked the arrival of an industrial revolution.

## Fleet stalls

The fleet of tall ships which left Portsmouth on Wednesday for a 12,000-mile journey to celebrate Australia's bicentennial was sheltering at Bournemouth Point, three miles from its starting point, last night, waiting for calmer winds.

## China lottery

Peking (Reuters) — China has given permission for its first nationwide lottery since an ideological row led to a ban on most public draws in 1985, the China Daily said.

## NHS waiting lists

## Patient numbers are rising

By Jill Sherman and Sheila Gunn

The Government yesterday defended its record on NHS waiting lists, after accusations by the Labour Party that some people were waiting more than four years for hospital treatment.

Mr Tony Newton, Minister for Health, said that hospitals were now treating more patients and undertaking new types of operations. The growing number of elderly people also meant that more hip replacements and cataract operations were taking place.

He produced figures to show that between 1978 and 1984 the number of coronary artery by-pass grafts had increased from 3,191 to 10,500 and the number of hip replacements from 28,090 to 38,000. Between 1978 and 1985 total in-patient cases had increased by 18 per cent.

He said that the Government had already launched a big initiative to tackle waiting lists in different specialties and different parts of the country. Mr Newton said: "We have put in an extra £50 million over two years to tackle the problem. In the

coming year this will help 350 projects aimed at taking 100,000 people off waiting lists."

A report from the College of Health, published yesterday, showing that 724,000 people were waiting for operations in England and Wales, was immediately seized upon by the Opposition health spokesman, Mr Michael Meacher, who said the figures provided a damning indictment of eight years of Conservative rule.

He said: "It is a litmus test of the Government's failure that waiting times are now excessive, with many people having to wait more than four years for treatment."

One person in his own constituency had had to wait more than nine years for a hip operation, he said.

In its Guide to Hospital Waiting Lists the College of Health shows that in Trent 921 patients had waited four years or more for general surgery while 864 had waited that long for orthopaedics, 728 for gynaecology and 4,671 for plastic surgery.

Of a total of 47,561 urgent,

cases waiting for admission in England, 29,145 had been waiting for more than a month. More than a quarter of the 688,190 people on waiting lists in England had been waiting more than a year.

Mr Meacher promised that a Labour government would bring resources to bear on waiting lists as the biggest single defect in the NHS.

The College of Health Guide argues that the £25 million allocated this year will fall far short of the cost of 100,000 operations.

The Department of Health said yesterday that the new money had been allocated to improve facilities to allow extra operations to take place, rather than pay for the actual operations.

● Mrs Thatcher defended the Government's record on hospital waiting lists during Question Time in the Commons, stating that under Labour waiting lists increased by nearly 25,000 between 1974 and 1979. By contrast, she said, they fell by 70,000 since 1979.

Parliament, Page 4

## Motorway debris led to death

A leading pianist died in an accident on the M4 after she had stopped on the hard shoulder to inspect damage caused by a plank which hit her car.

An inquest was told yesterday that Mrs Sadie Velleman was advised by another driver to leave the motorway at the next exit and find a garage. Moments later, she pulled out into the path of a lorry which was unable to stop.

The inquest at Newbury, Berkshire, was told that Mrs Velleman, aged 75, of Howberry Road, Edgware, north London, was one of a number of motorists who stopped after hitting debris.

Private Raymond Bird, based at Corsham, Wiltshire, told the inquest: "She indicated to pull off the hard shoulder but there's no way she could have looked in her mirror, otherwise she wouldn't have pulled out."

Mrs Velleman, a widow, died of severe head injuries.

Mr Charles Hoile, the West Berkshire coroner, recorded a verdict of accidental death.

Mrs Velleman, at the age of 75, was among the first musicians to perform on radio.

## Solicitors act over negligence claims

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Solicitors in England and Wales took the first steps towards protecting themselves against massive negligence claims yesterday when their governing body agreed that they can now limit their liability to individual clients by contract.

The Law Society council agreed that there was no objection to solicitors seeking to limit their liability to clients provided the limit was not below the minimum level of compulsory insurance cover — now £500,000 — the profession requires.

The limitation must be with the client's understanding and acceptance, preferably in writing, and must not breach any provisions of the Unfair Contracts Terms Act 1977.

It must also be in accordance with Law Society guidelines, now to be drawn up and sent out to the profession.

Yesterday, Mr John Wickerson, Law Society president, told the council that Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, had agreed to reconsider an inquiry into a statutory cap on

the damages courts can award for negligence.

● A solicitor was negligent because he failed to check that a first-time buyer had arranged life cover with his endowment mortgage, the High Court ruled yesterday.

The buyer, Mr Robert McLellan, aged 25, died in a car crash eight weeks after completing the purchase of the lease of land at Hawthorn Park, Brynna, Mid Glamorgan, on which the house was to be built.

Mr Justice Lincoln ruled that although Mr McLellan was 75 per cent to blame for the omission, because he mistakenly told his solicitor he had paid the first premium on the policy, the solicitor, Mr David Fletcher, was in breach of his duty to his client.

Mr Fletcher had a duty to his client to satisfy himself that the life policy was or was not in force, the judge said.

He awarded Mr McLellan's father, Mr John McLellan, of Clos Fach, Rhiwbina, Cardiff, £2,453 damages plus interest.

The damages were awarded against Mr Fletcher, of Cardiff-based D E Fletcher & Co.

## Choir schools' plea denied

By Sarah Thompson, Education Reporter

Choir schools are failing to recruit talented youngsters from poorer homes because of an acute shortage of scholarships.

Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, has refused a request from the Choir Schools Association for government aid on the same lines as the Assisted Places Scheme, which provides private education for 25,000 pupils after a means test.

Mr Giles Radice, Labour's education spokesman, yesterday rejected an appeal from the schools for exemption from Labour's plan to abolish

charitable status for all private schools.

The schools spend £2 million a year on subsidies to choristers. An additional trust set up by the Choir Schools Association has less than £10,000 at its disposal.

Boys at the country's 38 choir schools are too young to qualify for the Assisted Places Scheme, which is limited to secondary pupils, and Mr Baker has told the association that he cannot afford to provide government funds.

Mr Gerald Peacock, chairman of the association, told its annual meeting in Oxford



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# Airbus aid 'too little too late'

The Government's launch aid for British Aerospace to participate in new Airbus projects was described by the Opposition as too little, too late.

In his statement, Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said: After discussion with British Aerospace, I am glad to tell the House that agreement has been reached that up to £450 million in launch aid will be provided to enable the company to participate in the Airbus A330 and 340 projects.

This launch aid will be fully repayable on terms designed to yield an acceptable return in real terms on the Government's investment.

At this stage our support is conditional upon our partner governments also making arrangements that are necessary to enable their manufacturers to participate in the projects.

At a time when the competitive pressures in the world aerospace industry are as strong as ever, I would like to praise the determination of British Aerospace and its partners to extend their family of large airliners.

Mr Terence Davis, for the Opposition, said that the Labour Party's attitude was one of wholehearted support for British Aerospace and its attitude to the statement was that it was better late than never.

This package amounted to £450 million, whereas British Aerospace had told the Government it needed £750 million. The Government was therefore helping British Aerospace to the extent of less than two-thirds of what it needed.

Would he confirm that both the French and German governments were going to provide more than two-thirds of the development costs to their own aerospace industries in connection with the Airbus programme?

Would he admit that when this money ran out it was almost inevitable that thousands of workers at British Aerospace would follow their colleagues at Westland into unemployment?

Mr Channon said that he was extremely surprised at the Opposition's grudging support. The British Government was the first to announce its desire to give launch aid, so the idea that this statement was late was ridiculous.

The French and German governments have not offered any money so far and it would be most unwise to speculate about what they might offer.

"I am sure this project will be a great success. British Aerospace and the Government have been in constructive talks for some time and we are both satisfied that what I have announced today will enable their central objectives to be achieved."

"I believe the announcement will help to maintain and create 10,000 jobs and I would have thought the whole House would welcome that."

Mr Alan Haselhurst (Saffron Walden, C) said that the announcement would be warmly welcomed by British civil aviation. Would he confirm that this was the Government's commitment to the group of aircraft manufacturers proving themselves to be world leaders?

Mr Channon agreed. He said that exports from the aerospace industry last year reached nearly £5 billion, and that was 12 per cent up on 1985. The industry also had orders of £3 billion, 60 per cent of them from overseas.

"I think the industry is one of Britain's greatest national assets and the Government is determined to support it."

Mr Stephen Ross (Isle of Wight, L) congratulated Mr Channon on his announcement, although he thought it might have some connection with the imminent election. Was the money adequate for British Aerospace to participate fully in its 20 per cent stake in the project?

Mr Channon said that the Government had to make an announcement before June 11 because that was the date of the opening of the Paris Air Show. British Aerospace was convinced that it would be able to participate fully in this project and he was certain that it would not have agreed to take part if it had not been convinced of that.

Mr George Park (Coventry North East, Lab) said that the announcement was welcome but might have the effect of creating difficulties for other projects which British Aerospace was funding without aid.

Mr Channon said that if British Aerospace had not been asked to participate in the project, it would not have agreed with the Government on the announcement.

Mr Jack Straw (Blackburn, Lab) said that both the amount of the aid and the timing of the announcement had been dictated by the anxieties of Conservatives in marginal seats.

Mr Channon replied that the amount had been agreed with British Aerospace. He had made an early announcement because he thought that was in the interests of the company, of those who worked for the company and also because firm decisions would be taken by other governments in the next few weeks.

Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab) asked what had happened to monetarism. For the six months before the announcement of the general election ministers had been scrambling to give grants and subsidies.

Mr Channon said that he did not think that Mr Skinner wanted a lecture from him on monetarism. There was a genuine desire in all quarters of the House to support this imaginative scheme.

# Thatcher defends Conservatives' record on NHS

The Prime Minister, at her last question time before the general election, defended the Government's record on the National Health Service while Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, accused the Conservatives of a lack of morality in not providing sufficient money for the service.

Mr Kinnock asserted that 750,000 people were on hospital waiting lists and some had waited for more than four years for operations. "Is not her claim that the National Health Service is safe in her hands a sick joke against sick people?"

Mrs Thatcher: No. Mr Kinnock complains of waiting lists being too long. Labour governments have presided over increases in waiting lists - (Labour protests) - and Conservative governments have cut them.

In 1964 and 1970, under Labour, waiting lists increased by 85,000. Between 1974 and 1979, also under Labour, they had increased by nearly 25,000. By contrast, under Conservative Governments, between 1970 and 1974 waiting lists fell by 31,000 and since 1979 they had fallen by 70,000 (Conservative cheers).

Mr Kinnock: Both in terms of the numbers on waiting lists and in terms of the waiting time in waiting lists she is misleading the House (Conservative protests).

In both cases, after eight years of this Government, the figures were 15 per cent higher than they were under Labour.

Mrs Thatcher said that the Government's record was based on the facts and not on rhetoric. Labour governments had presided over waiting list increases and Conservative governments had cut them.

Under this Government the number of patients being treated had been increased. There were almost one million more patients in hospital a year. Patient services had increased.

Perinatal mortality had been reduced by more than one third. Hip replacements had risen by a quarter and cataract operations by half. "That is our record."

Mr Kinnock said that the Royal Colleges of Surgeons and Physicians, the Commons Select Committee, all patients who used the service and people working in it had said that Mrs Thatcher had never made the proper commitment to the NHS as was required by modern needs.

"It is obvious that there is not so much a shortage of money as an absence of morality on behalf of the Government."

Mrs Thatcher: He talks about a shortage of money. When I entered No 10, £7.75 billion a year had been allocated to the health service. Today it is £21 billion a year, giving a better health service and standard of life.

Sir Ian Percival (Southport, C) was loudly interrupted by Opposition protests and finally cheered by Conservative MPs when he said: However hard the leader of the Opposition may try, and whatever they are praying for in Moscow, during the next few weeks millions of people in the United Kingdom will be praying that she will be given health and strength to continue to give the magnificent lead she has given us all for eight solid years.

Whatever the Opposition may say, with her input of ideas, ideas and effort, and those of her governments have enabled the people of this country to regain their self-respect, a place in the world and a real prospect of a better future, provided they return her to Number 10 Downing Street four weeks from today. God bless her!

Mrs Thatcher: I have never felt fitter.

Mr Timothy Yeo (South Suffolk, C) opened Prime Minister's question time, to cheers from Conservatives, when he said that the fall in unemployment was further evidence that the Government's policy of sharing the fruits of economic growth between cuts in income tax, cuts in public borrowing and interest rates and social increases in public spending was right "for the next five years".

Mrs Thatcher said that today's figures showing a fall in unemployment were encouraging. "They show that unemployment is on a downward trend and that the number of jobs is rising, too."

Sound financial policies, private enterprise and incentive



# Owen and Steel are off on a flying campaign

The Alliance's election campaign roadshow, which will take the two party leaders to 10 cities in three days, got under way yesterday.

Dr David Owen and Mr David Steel travelled by executive jet to Cardiff, Belfast, Glasgow and Newcastle to underline their proposals for devolution and decentralization in Scotland, Wales and the English regions.

Today they will visit Leeds, Manchester, Nottingham and Southampton before rounding off their tour with Bristol and Exeter on Saturday.

It is an exercise designed to generate maximum media exposure, particularly on television, before the other two main parties get their campaign machines fully mobilized.

The purpose of the hectic trip, Mr Steel said in Newcastle last night, was to demonstrate the Alliance's determination that the election would not be a "London oriented, an armchair campaign", and that they intended to take their arguments to the areas worst affected by government policies.

Mr Steel told party candidates and workers last night that voters in areas such as the North-east, traditionally a Labour stronghold, now had to decide if they were to stick with the politics of the past, or transfer their support to the movement that could stop a third Thatcher term.

Dr Owen said that there was now a "high possibility" of gaining Redcar in Cleveland, where Mr James Tinn, the sitting Labour MP, has announced that he will not stand again.

The two leaders said last night that they would, if elected, set up an organization in the North-east similar to the Scottish Development Agency.

Dr Owen said that although the Government had yesterday announced a further drop in the unemployment figure nationally, the number of jobs in the North-east had not fallen. He said the Alliance policies would create a million jobs in three years.

In Glasgow, Mr Steel said during their hour-long visit that the Alliance would scrap the community charge rushed through Parliament to replace domestic rates in Scotland.

The Alliance leaders were greeted by the results of a MORI opinion poll in *The Scotsman* which put their party in third place with 13 per cent of the Scottish vote - three points down on last March. But Mr Steel refused to be dismayed. Overall the polls showed an encouraging trend for the Alliance, he said.

While the key issues would be unemployment and a change in the electoral system, both leaders agreed that devolution would also rank high. The Alliance proposals would include Scottish devolution in a comprehensive reform sensitive to the distinctive nations of the UK, the province of Northern Ireland and all the regions of England.

The Scottish National Party was not a contender for government and could not therefore deliver, while the Tories had little to hope for in Scotland, Mr Steel said.

In Belfast the two leaders came in for heavy criticism from a leading member of the Rev Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party, Mr Cedric Wilson, for their support of the Anglo-Irish agreement.

# Leaders limber up for battle

By Nicholas Wood  
Political Reporter

Mr Neil Kinnock clashed bitterly with Mrs Margaret Thatcher yesterday over the Government's stewardship of the National Health Service as the last Prime Minister's questions of this Parliament heralded a bruising contest between the two leaders in the general election campaign.

Mr Bernard Weatherill, the Speaker, repeatedly struggled to restore order as the Commons' end-of-term exuberance boiled over into cheers and jeers that sometimes drowned out exchanges.

Mr Kinnock was greeted by cries of "Bye, bye" from some Conservative MPs waving order papers as he launched an emotional attack on Mrs Thatcher's record, accusing her of misleading the House with her replies and being ignorant of the "pain and anxiety" suffered by people waiting for treatment.

He said that there were 750,000 people waiting for hospital treatment.

Mr Kinnock signalled an attempt to make his campaign a moral crusade against Thatcherism by adding: "There's not so much a shortage of money as an absence of morality on behalf of the Prime Minister."

Mrs Thatcher, declining to be drawn into trading insults, said she would reply with "facts not rhetoric."

She said that Labour governments since 1964 had presided over increases in waiting lists, while they had fallen under Conservative administrations, including her own. Annual NHS spending had risen from £7.75 billion in 1979 to £21 billion.

Mr Ross Lewis, Labour MP for Carlisle with a majority of 71, who is retiring from the Commons, asked the Prime Minister to give an assurance that she had never told a lie during her years in power.

Mrs Thatcher coolly told him that if he looked at her replies from the despatch box he would find them "accurate to the very best levels of my ability."

In the face of deafening Opposition barking, Sir Ian Percival, Conservative MP for Southport, who is also stepping down, said that during the next few weeks millions of people would be praying that Mrs Thatcher would be given the health and strength to continue to give Britain such a "magnificent lead".

The Prime Minister replied: "I've never felt fitter."

# Farewell from the Speaker

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) told MPs that he would be in the Chair at the close of business on Friday to shake hands with members, especially those who were not standing for re-election.

In addition, he would be at home in the Speaker's house next Monday between noon and 1pm and he would welcome the opportunity to offer refreshment and good wishes for the future to retiring MPs.

Addressing his last remark to Mr Andrew Faulds (Warley East, Lab), who is not retiring but who made clear his eagerness to bid farewell to the Speaker when a previous invitation for "a glass of sherry" was issued, the Speaker said: I say to Mr Faulds, no one will be turned away (laughter).

Later Mr Faulds raised a

# 'Children first' pay deal

The new pay arrangements for teachers had been designed to give higher pay and promotion to those who had put children first throughout the time that others had been on strike.

Mrs Thatcher said during Prime Minister's question time, Conservative MPs had said that the teachers who had continued to work were the education of children first. The time had come to put in hand measures to change the running of schools.

Mrs Thatcher said that she hoped that when the Conservative manifesto came out, he would be pleased.

# King begs for end to killing

Twenty-two people had died as a result of the security situation in Northern Ireland since April 9, including Sir Maurice and Lady Gibson, four policemen, one member of the UDR and eight terrorists, Mr Tony King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, told MPs during Commons questions.

Mr Michael Latham (Rutland and Melton, C) asked if he had seen on television last night the deplorable sight of masked gunmen at funerals on both sides of the border.

Would he confirm that whoever stood at the dispatch box after the election would be committed to an unrelenting fight against terrorism in Northern Ireland?

Mr King said that the sight that had given Mr Latham such offence gave equal offence to the overwhelming majority of people in Ireland. There was clear condemnation against the men of violence from north and south of the border.

Mr John Hume (Foyle, SDLP) expressed distaste at those who gloated over loss of life, who saw death as some kind of victory.

The most powerful statement made in the past 12 months was by the mother of an innocent boy aged 17, killed in a sectarian murder, who shouted "Stop", an appeal to all sides to stop the killing.

Mr King paid tribute to Mr Hume's courage in the light of a petrol bomb attack on his home earlier this week.

"He himself has been the victim of mindless and directed violence directed against him and his family. The whole House respects the courage with which he discharges his responsibilities against some very evil men indeed" (cheers).

Mr Stuart Bell (Middlesbrough, Lab) congratulated the security forces on their recent successes. They had had a



difficult time in recent months and one or two actions were highly commendable.

Mr King said that there had been some fairly wild speculation about the events of last Friday night (when eight terrorists were killed while attacking the police station at Loughgall).

The events there had been a consequence of steps taken to try to improve the security of land, said he would like to associate the Opposition with the Government in its security policy towards Northern Ireland.

Mr King said that he was grateful for those comments and the resolute position in territorial security that he had said that he and his front-bench colleagues had taken.

Mr Kevin McNamara (Hull North, Lab) said that the eight men killed in the ambush had reportedly been under surveillance at the farmhouse where they collected their weapons. There was only one access road into the village where they were trying to carry out their attack and they had been surrounded.

If those circumstances as related in the newspapers were correct, why had not a megaphone been used or a searchlight turned on to give the men an opportunity to surrender?

Mr Scott said that Mr McNamara should not believe all that he read in the newspapers.

Mr Ivor Stanbrook (Orpington, C) asked if it was not a fact that recidivism of those convicted of terrorist offences was very high. Should they not consider introducing powers to enable the courts of Northern Ireland to sentence offenders convicted of terrorist crimes to imprisonment for the duration of the emergency.

Miss Clare Short: Internment. Mr Scott said that a study was being carried out about the degree of involvement in terrorist activity of those convicted of terrorist-type offences. There was some superficial advice that that existed to a certain extent, but he advised against jumping to too many conclusions.

Mr Scott said that a Labour government would support the Anglo-Irish agreement was given during Commons questions by Mr Stuart Bell, an Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland.

# Political advice alters royal diary

The Royal Family has rearranged its programme of engagements in the run-up to the general election to avoid any risk of becoming involved in political controversy.

Buckingham Palace said today that 10 engagements were being rescheduled or cancelled on political advice.

The Royal Family normally changes engagements at election times if advisers consider that a visit might give advantage to any political party, or if it interferes with election arrangements.

The cancellations include visits by the Prince and Princess of Wales to Liverpool on May 21 and 22 and by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh to North Humberside on May 28, during which the Queen was to open Hull's new fire brigade headquarters.

Visits by the Prince of Wales to the Stock Exchange in London on May 28, where he was due to give a lecture, and by the Duke and Duchess of York to York on May 30 have also been cancelled.

Four engagements were planned for election day on June 11. The Queen was to go to John Milton's cottage at Chalfont St Giles, Buckinghamshire, the Princess of Wales was to open a nursing and retirement home at Tebury, Gloucestershire and the Duchess of York had visits planned to King's College Hospital, London.

# Parties urged to support hunting ban

By Ruth Gledhill

The anti-hunt lobby yesterday urged the three leading political parties to make election manifesto commitments to abolish blood sports.

The League Against Cruel Sports claimed that the results of an opinion poll commissioned from Gallup showed that all three parties would gain more votes than they would lose if they supported a ban on hunting.

Mr Richard Course, the league's executive director, emphasized that it was not calling for the abolition of fishing.

Of more than 5,000 people questioned, 68 per cent said that they would approve if Parliament banned fox hunting. More than 70 per cent said it would make no difference to the way they voted if any of the three parties was the only one to make a manifesto commitment to ban fox hunting, stag hunting or hare coursing.

# Kinnock revels in Celtic oratory

By Philip Howard

Neil Kinnock has been leader of the Labour Party since October 1983 and has had less time than other leaders to accumulate the barnacles of characteristic quotations. But he takes a Celtic delight in oratory, never using one word where five will do, that has earned him the nickname of the Welsh windbag.

SDP Political renegades always start their career of treachery as "the best men of all parties" and end up in the Tory knacker.

Welsh Labour Party conference, 1985.

Economics It is inconceivable that we could transform this society without a major extension of public ownership.

Marxism Today, 1983.

Patriotism Those who prate about Blimpish patriotism in the mode of Margaret Thatcher are also the ones who will take millions off the caring services of this country.

Brighion conference, 1983.

Joker You cannot fashion a wit out of two half-wits.

The Times, 1983.

PR Proportional Representation, I think, is fundamentally counter-democratic.

Marxism Today, 1983.

Compassion Compassion is not a sloppy, sentimental feeling for people who are underprivileged or sick... it is an absolutely practical belief that, regardless of a person's background, ability or ability to pay, he should be provided with the best that society has to offer.

Maiden speech, 1970.

Inadequacy Like Brighton pier, all right as far as it goes, but inadequate for getting to France.

House of Commons, 1981.

Leisure I'm prepared to take advice on leisure from Prince Philip. He's a world expert on leisure. He's been practising for most of his adult life.

Western Mail, 1981.

Permissive society I'm a father. And no matter how much I try to convince myself towards the course of "enlightenment" I know damn well that, put to the test, I'm what people would call a reactionary.

Everywoman, 1986.

Militants The grotesque chaos of a Labour council - a Labour council - hiring taxis to scuttle around a city handing out redundancy notices to its own workers.

Bournemouth Conference, 1985.

The Queen's Purse This is pretty rich when a fortnight ago Prince Philip was warning us of the dangers of living off the State.

Speech, 1977.

Private education Labour would not in any case abolish the right of parents to buy schooling. They could still buy it abroad.

Speech at Rochester, 1983.

Capitalism We cannot remove the evils of capitalism without taking its source of power ownership.

Tribune, 1975.

Labour voter The idea that there is a model Labour voter, a blue-collar council house tenant who belongs to a union and has 2.4 children, a five-year-old car and a holiday in Blackpool, is patronizing and politically illiterate.

Election strategy conference, 1986.

Next: The Alliance leaders



HS battle  
Leaders  
limber  
up for  
battle

Lesson of polls • Swing to Labour • Perth campaign • Alliance pledge

ELECTION 87 X

# How Labour loses out in the marginal seats

By Robin Oakley  
Political Editor

The lesson of the latest Times/MORI poll of marginal seats is that Mrs Margaret Thatcher and the Conservatives are once again doing rather better in the marginals than they are in the country at large.

An average of the opinion polls conducted nationwide in May suggests a 1.5 per cent swing to Labour since the last election. But Labour is not getting the benefit of that swing because of the way it is collecting those extra votes.

The national average figures would suggest a drop in the Tory majority from 144 to 106 with the Conservatives losing 12 seats to Labour, five to the Alliance and two to others. However, on the figures from the marginal seats, the Government would seem to be heading for a victory margin almost identical to that in 1983.

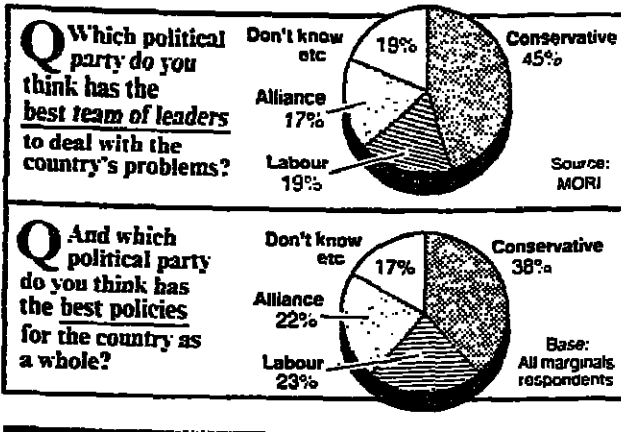
There has been virtually no movement in the Conservative/Labour marginals but in the Conservative/Alliance marginals there has been a 3.5 per cent swing from Alliance to Labour. In terms of seats, however, that is practically useless for Labour and it will be subject to a tactical squeeze.

If the pattern indicated by the latest MORI figures were to be repeated on June 11, Labour would gain no more than a handful of seats and the Alliance would lose between seven and 10 seats. But expert psephologists do not believe that this will happen.

The evidence of the polls is that a number of people in making their responses have forgotten that they voted Alliance in 1983. The number of people saying that they are likely to turn out and vote has increased among Alliance supporters, so has the degree of identification with the party.

The signs are that when they are reminded that Labour is in third place in those Conservative/Alliance marginals such voters are likely to swing over to the Alliance again as the election gathers momentum.

The Alliance has been noticeably swifter than the two main parties in launching its general election campaign, winning headlines with selective leaks from its manifesto day by day while the other parties were still concerned with the legislative death



## SEATS AND VOTES

	Con	Lab	Alln	Other	Overall maj.
1983 election vote share(%)	44	28	26	2	+144
1983 seats	397	209	23	21	-
National polls May 87(%)	42	29	27	2	-
Seats on uniform swing (notional)	378	221	28	23	+106
Seats on marginal swing (notional)	395	213	17	23	+140

Votes in Great Britain only taking into account latest Scottish poll

throes of the 1983-87 Parliament.

The Alliance leadership is keen to make its impact earlier in this election than in 1983 when the surge of votes in its favour happened only in the last few days. Achieving the one third increase in share of the vote during the campaign which the Alliance secured in 1983 will be much harder from the higher starting base this time. The marginals poll evidence is that those tactics are wise and that there is potential for an increase in the Alliance vote.

Leading psephologist Dr David Butler said last night that he did not believe that the picture in the Conservative/Alliance marginals in particular was likely to stay the same.

## The concept of tactical voting has yet to show through significantly

"Tactical voting is likely to develop and to affect the poll figures. Things are going to move. The discrepancies between the various polls indicate the volatility of the electorate and I expect a lot to move, though I am not saying it will necessarily move towards the Alliance."

Mr John Curtice, another leading psephologist has already pointed out that in the last general election the Alli-

ance made up 12 points on the Conservatives during the campaign. If that figure were applied to the latest opinion poll results then the Alliance could even finish as the largest party.

Dr Butler said: "We must not forget an even bigger landslide than last time for the Conservatives is possible on these starting figures. But so is a hung Parliament."

However, the concept of tactical voting, clearly evident at the by-elections during this Parliament in which the Conservatives on average lost 13.7 per cent of their share of the vote while Labour gained 0.8 and the Alliance 12.9 per cent, has yet to show through significantly.

In Conservative/Labour marginals MORI found that 81 per cent said they would vote for the party which most represented their views and only 14 per cent intended to vote for their second choice party to keep out the party they liked the least.

In Conservative/Alliance marginals the figures were 84 per cent and 14 per cent. In both categories there were twice as many intending tactical voters among Alliance supporters as there were among supporters of the other two parties.

Among the issues, while a smaller proportion of voters rate unemployment as one of the most important topics it still tops the list with voters in both sets of marginals. The

National Health Service is being given increased attention, up 7 per cent in Conservative/Labour marginals since February and up 8 per cent in Conservative/Alliance marginals.

It now rates a clear second place in both Conservative/Labour and Conservative/Alliance marginals. That should be good for the Labour Party, which intends to make it a centrepiece of its campaign.

Labour is still rated as having the best policies on unemployment. In Conservative/Labour marginals Labour scores 37 per cent to 27 per cent for the Conservatives and 15 per cent for the Alliance. In Conservative/Alliance marginals it scores 36 per cent to 27 per cent for the Conservatives and 16 per cent for the Alliance.

Education, which Labour's strategists see as another good issue for them, is up marginally, and in spite of Conservative hopes that defence would be a centrepiece of the campaign it rates as a main subject with only 18 per cent of the electorate on both sets of marginals.

Even in Conservative/Labour marginals twice as many voters believe the Conservatives have the best policies on defence. They win the support of 49 per cent, to just 22 per cent for Labour and 12 per cent for the Alliance.

## 46 per cent see the Conservatives as having the best team

On disarmament Labour fares rather better, getting a 28 per cent rating to the 33 per cent for the Conservatives.

On the question of leadership, 46 per cent of voters in Conservative/Labour marginals see the Conservatives as having the best team compared with 41 per cent in February. Labour remains on the same mark at 21 per cent and the Alliance has dropped a point at 16 per cent.

In Conservative/Alliance marginals the Conservatives are up from 39 to 47 per cent, Labour is down from 20 to 17 per cent and the Alliance down from 20 to 18 per cent.

MORI conducted face-to-face interviews between May 11-13 after the announcement of the election date among a representative sample of 1,424 adults aged 18+ in 78 Conservative-held marginals. Sixty-two of the constituencies would go to Labour on a swing of 10 per cent and 22 would go to the Alliance on a swing of 5 per cent. Eleven constituencies are three-way marginals falling into both categories. A total of 1,094 interviews were conducted in Conservative/Labour marginals and 659 in Conservative/Alliance marginals. Margins of error in the two samples are plus or minus 3 and 4 per cent respectively.



Campaign talk...Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, (above) addressing the Scottish Conservatives in Perth yesterday (Photograph: Tom Kidd) and Mr Michael Meacher, Labour's health spokesman, at a press conference in London (Photograph: Deniz McNeelance).

# Thatcher goes north to ignite Tory campaign

By Richard Evans, Political Correspondent

A year ago tomorrow Mrs Margaret Thatcher arrived in Perth to find her party north of the border in turmoil. This evening she returns, and partly as a result of last year's salutary experience, she hopes to ignite the Conservatives' general election campaign.

The city of Perth has an uncanny knack of popping up at crucial times for Mrs Thatcher. In 1979 it was the venue for her first important speech as Prime Minister which she began with the words: "Well, We won didn't we?"

Three years later she was in the city to speak at a key period during the Falklands crisis. And in 1983, as now, Mrs Thatcher announced the date of the general election and immediately made for Perth to rally the Scots.

As she travels this afternoon she will no doubt be hoping that this year's truncated Scottish Conservative conference will prove as successful a launching pad as it did four summers ago. Yet in Perth's solid City Hall 364 days ago the only words associated with elections were disaster, defeat and demoralization.

Long-faced party activists were plunged into anguished soul-searching after a humiliating set of local election results which saw the Conservatives lose control of the three regions they had held.

Amid the gloom and doom senior party figures were, by Tory standards, openly critical of the Government's performance and, implicitly, of Mrs Thatcher.

All in all not the ideal setting for the leader of any party to have to address the troops. But it proved the turning point. If the Conservatives win the general election on June 11 the despair of Perth will have been the starting point.

For Mrs Thatcher, having been warned in advance that a "more-of-the-same-policies" speech would be the last straw for the loyalist of Scots, sang a

different tune last year.

"What I think people are now saying to the Government is this: You understood what we wanted a few years ago. And you had the guts to do something about it. Do you understand what is worrying us today?"

Twelve months later measures for tackling those new challenges such as radically reforming the state education system and regenerating the inner cities—look set to form the heart of the Conservative manifesto.

But the jewel in the crown as far as the Scots are concerned is already in place. Mrs Thatcher will be able to tell the conference that the Government has kept its promise to abolish the rating system and that a Bill replacing it with a community charge, or poll tax, has been given Royal Assent.

A MORI opinion poll published in *The Scotsman* yesterday shows that Conservative support in Scotland has risen six points since March, but they are still only on 25 per cent, three and a half points behind the support obtained at the 1983 election and 18 points behind Labour.

The poll gives Labour 43 per cent, Conservatives 25 per cent, the Liberal/SDP Alliance 18 per cent and the Scottish National Party 14 per cent. If those voting intentions were repeated at the general election the Tories could expect to lose six seats to Labour, two to the SNP and to gain one from the Alliance.

The MPs under threat include Mr Michael Aisac, a junior Scottish minister (Edinburgh, South), a Government whip, Mr Gerry Malone (Aberdeen South), Mr Albert McQuarrie (Banff and Buchan), Mr John Corrie (Cunningham, North), Sir Alex Fletcher (Edinburgh Central), Mr Alex Pollock (Moray), Mrs Anna McCurley (Renfrew, West and Inverclyde) and Mr Michael Hirst (Strathkelvin and Bearsden).

# Alliance promises ministry of justice

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

The creation of a ministry of justice, 4,000 extra police officers, a Bill obliging banks to notify narcotics authorities of any large cash transactions and a commitment to end the "silent scandal" of overcrowded prisons were among key elements of the Alliance law and order policy unveiled yesterday.

Launching the policy, Mrs Shirley Williams, the Alliance home affairs spokesman, said that the Tories had concentrated on tackling crime without considering its causes, while Labour was concentrating on its causes but would withhold from the police the wherewithal to tackle it.

"The Alliance would tackle

both crime and the causes of crime," she said.

She promised an extra 4,000 police officers and 1,000 more non-police staff to assist them, at a cost of £125 million to £150 million.

There would also be better pay and promotion structures to retain community beat policemen, local police officers in high crime areas, a statutory duty on local authorities to create crime prevention units, and greater emphasis on security in planning new housing.

Proportional representation at local level would eradicate the "loony left", making possible a democratic London-wide police authority. That would increase police acc-

ountability, but would not interfere with operational decisions.

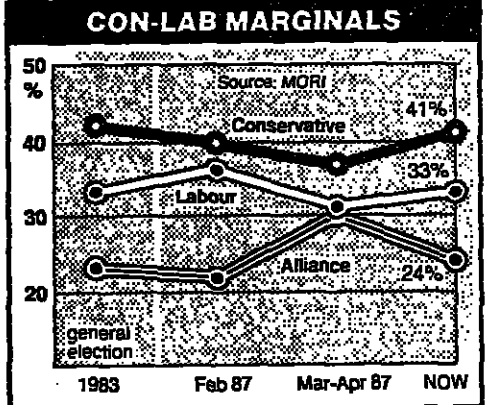
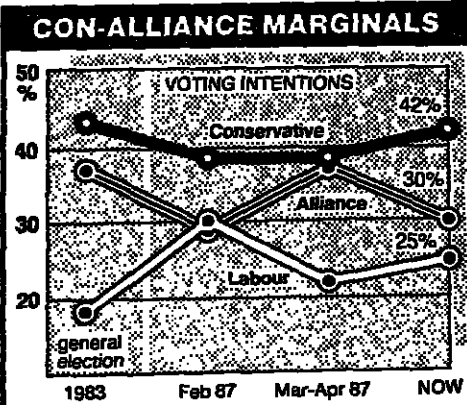
Conditions in the prisons were "a disgrace in any civilized society", Mrs Williams said. To curb chronic overcrowding the Alliance would set a 110-day limit for remand prisoners, provide bail hostels, and discourage custodial sentences for minor offences. It would also adopt minimum standards for prisons within two years.

In an attempt to combat the illicit drugs trade, Lord Harris of Greenwich, a former Home Office minister, committed the Alliance to introduce legislation similar to that in the United States where banks are

obliged to inform the FBI of cash transactions of more than \$10,000.

Outlining Alliance plans for a ministry of justice, Mr Alex Carlile, QC, Liberal MP for Montgomery, said that it would assume all responsibility for legal services from the "inefficient" Home Office and all the functions of the law officers and Lord Chancellor's departments.

Legal aid provision would be increased and made more widely available. Community law centres would be reopened. The crown prosecution service would receive extra funds. Peremptory challenge would be retained.



# Parents lose appeal for damages over deaf son

The parents of a deaf schoolboy yesterday lost an appeal in the House of Lords to reinstate a £102,000 damages award to their son.

The law lords unanimously dismissed an appeal brought by Mr James Kay, a geography teacher, of Ardayre Road, Prestwick, on behalf of his son Andrew, aged 13.

Mr Kay and his wife, Madge, won a £102,000 award against the Ayrshire and Arran Health Board from the Lord Ordinary in the Scottish courts in March 1985.

Their case was that Andrew's deafness, which has led to speech loss and behaviour difficulties, was linked with, or contributed to, by the massive overdose of penicillin he was given after being admitted to the Seafeld Children's Hospital in Ayr, when he was suffering from meningitis in November 1975, aged two.

But in December 1985 the First Division of the Court of

Session in Edinburgh reduced the award against the health board to £3,000, plus £4,175 interest.

Lord Ackner, dismissing the Kays' appeal yesterday, said: "Everybody who has read, or will read, about Andrew's case cannot but be moved by the tragedy which has befallen him and his family."

But the evidence had failed to prove that the boy's deafness was linked with the penicillin overdose.

The hospital authority has not disputed liability for the immediate consequences of the penicillin overdose—convulsions and paralysis—which cleared up within a few days without leaving any neurological defect. It has been accepted that the figure of £3,000 was the proper compensation for this.

Lord Keith of Kinkel said that on November 28, 1975, Andrew, then two years and five months old, was admitted to Seafeld Children's Hos-

pital suffering from pneumococcal meningitis, a "most virulent form" of the disease. By mistake, he was given 300,000 units of penicillin instead of 10,000 units which rapidly produced toxic effects.

The child went into immediate convulsions and later developed a degree of paralysis on one side of his body. The senior house officer, who had given the injection, realized his mistake immediately and took urgent remedial measures which saved Andrew's life.

Although the ill effects of the overdose disappeared, it was discovered that the boy was suffering from profound bilateral deafness, which still affects him, Lord Keith said.

However, Lord Keith said: "The weight of the evidence is that the deafness was caused by the meningitis and that there was no connection between the deafness and the overdose of penicillin."

Law Report, page 33

# Blue roses could be on the way

A blue rose, with its pigmentation taken from the genes that give delphiniums their colour, could be one of the products of a research centre costing £6 million, planned by Twyford International at Cambridge.

The centre will employ 30 scientists to use molecular biology techniques to transfer genes for certain traits, such as colour, from one type of plant to another. As well as making blue roses, the technique can also improve crops.

## Tatchell plea

Mr Peter Tatchell, the former Labour parliamentary candidate, was among 10 people who appeared before Portsmouth magistrates yesterday after a protest in the city on Wednesday. All denied being found in circumstances which required them to be bound over and the hearings were adjourned.

## Pianist cleared

Roger Woodward, the concert pianist, was cleared by the Central Criminal Court yesterday of attempting to pervert the course of justice. He was accused of hiding a camera stolen from a photographer who suffered fatal injuries during the Brixton riots in 1983.

## Drug overdose

Mr John Higgins, aged 50, who was found dead at his home in Corringham, near Pitsea, Essex, died of an overdose of drink and drugs, it was disclosed yesterday. The bodies of three members of his family, all suffering from head injuries, were found at the same time.



National Bike Week was launched in London yesterday by Mr Richard Tracey, Minister for Sport, with Woman Police Constable Angela Honnor assisting in tandem.

# Anglers win pollution case against authority

Anglers campaigning against river pollution took a water authority to court yesterday, and won.

Thames Water Authority was fined £6,000 after admitting six charges of ammonia pollution in the river Thames at Aylesbury Magistrates' Court, Buckinghamshire.

The prosecution was brought by the Anglers Co-operative Association on behalf of a group of 20 angling clubs and their 5,000 members.

It was the first time a water authority had been taken to

court under the Control of Pollution Act, 1974.

The six charges against Thames Water concerned sewage effluent which entered the Thames from the Aylesbury sewage treatment works, between September 11, 1986 and January 28 this year, and which failed to conform to the legal limits for ammonia.

Mr John Haines, for Thames Water, said: "Thames Water accepts absolute responsibility."

The authority was fined £1,000 on each of the six charges and ordered to pay £800 costs.

# Chicken and fresh fish the best buys

Chicken, once considered a treat, is considerably less expensive now than red meat, and consumption rose by a further 5 per cent last year. Whole birds range from 76p to 99p per lb fresh and 54p-64p per lb frozen. They can of course be bought in quarters, drumsticks and breast pieces for convenience when cooking casseroles and other dishes.

The declining consumption in the home of beef is more than balanced by restaurant meals and take-aways. For those who still cherish the weekend family roast, topside and silverside are selling at about £2.18 per lb and sirloin at £2.87 per lb.

Lamb prices continue to rise with home-produced leg up to £2.19 per lb, shoulder at £1.35 and loin chops at £2.25. New Zealand equivalents are £1.48, 84p and £1.53 per lb respectively.

A selection of meats being promoted at various shops and supermarkets include Dewhurst pork and lamb chops at £1.20 per lb, Sainsbury frozen chicken up to 3½ lb at 46p per lb and beef topside at £1.76 per lb. Tesco New Zealand lamb chops are £1.19 per lb and fresh boned shoulder of pork 94p. Bejam New Zealand whole leg of lamb is 99p per lb (down 37p) and pork chops £1.19. Asda home-produced chickens up to 3½ lb are selling at 69p per lb and pork chops at 99p.

Of the excellent quality flatfish available, plaice is probably the best value nationwide at an average £2.08 per lb, but the price could be as low as £1.20 in some areas.

Whole lemon sole is down

5p on last week's price to £2.36, but Dover sole is up by about 7p to more than £5 per lb. Huss is under £1 per lb and good quality. Also cheaper this week are cod and fresh and smoked haddock. Perth at about £1.60 per lb is available in some areas. Farmed salmon is still expensive at more than £5 per lb; sea trout could be a good alternative at about £4.

Peeled prawns are up about 6p per lb to an average of £4.94, but the price can vary from £3 to £9 depending on type. Dressed Cromer crabs are available at about £1.40 for small (4oz) and £2.20 for the larger ones (7oz).

The selection of potatoes in the shops is almost as wide as that of apples. Besides home-grown whites, reds, Caras and King Edwards, at between 13p and 16p per lb, there are Cyprus large and small, Egyptian Caras and new King Edward from 16p to 40p. The unique Jersey Royals, with their very special flavour, are naturally much more expensive at 70p to £1, but still worth buying while they are small and delicious.

Cucumbers at 35p to 65p each, spring onions at 18p to 30p a bunch, imported celery at 40p to 65p a head and tomatoes at 65p to 80p per lb are among the best value salad ingredients.

Good fruit buys include bananas at 38p to 54p per lb, avocados from 24p each, Cape Barlinka grapes at 80p to £1 per lb, grapefruit at 10p to 25p each, New Zealand Coxes and Granny Smith's at 35p to 40p per lb, pineapples at 70p to £1.75 each, rhubarb at 15p to 25p per lb and strawberries at 35p to 65p for a ½ lb punnet.



# THIS YEAR, WE'VE TREBLED THE STRENGTH OF OUR DRINKS IN AMERICA AND EUROPE. (OUR RIVALS WILL FIND IT VERY HARD TO SWALLOW.)

At the end of last year we bought a round of drinks. A very large round of drinks indeed. It was valued at £1,250,000,000. We bought control of Hiram Walker. One of North America's most successful spirits and wines companies.

Overnight it made our drinks business in the States fifteen times stronger. And on the continent it increased our strength dramatically. In fact it made us one of the largest spirits and wines companies in the world. But more importantly it brought under the Allied-Lyons umbrella such famous international brands as Kahlua, Tia Maria, Ballantines Scotch Whisky, Courvoisier Cognac and Canadian Club.

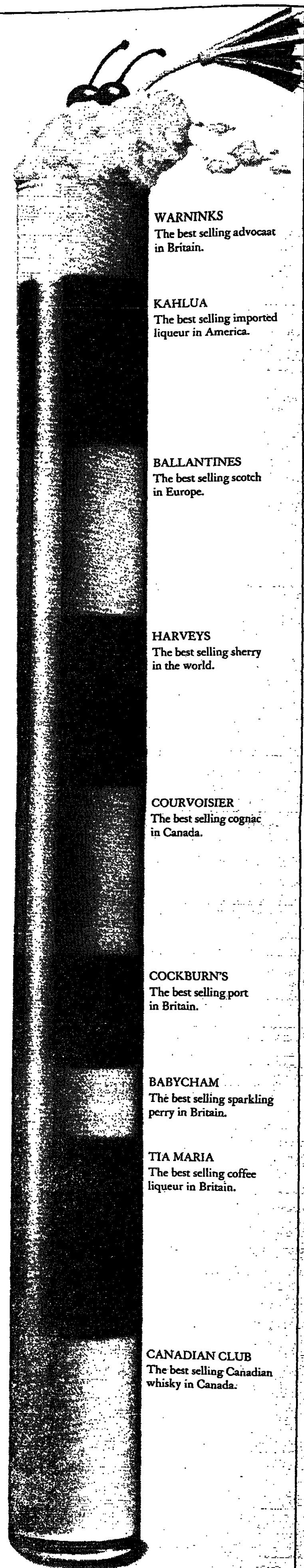
A perfect round of drinks to mix with our own best selling brands: Cockburn's Port; Harveys Bristol Cream; Warninks Advocaat; Babycham and Teacher's. Because it means we now have a distribution network which ensures an extra welcome for our drinks in the bars and liquor stores of America.

As well as ensuring a warm reception for Hiram Walker's drinks in British pubs and the parts of the world where we are already well established. But of course the success of blending two such highly spirited companies doesn't stop there.

Hiram Walker's extensive world networks open up our market opportunities throughout Europe, South America and the ever expanding Far East. And our combined resources give us a much broader base from which to launch new products in increasingly fashion conscious drinks markets, throughout the world.

The Hiram Walker acquisition is another example of our commitment to our role as a leading international food, drink and leisure group. All of which isn't going down too well in the boardrooms of our competitors. Because as our spirits and wines division goes from strength to strength, other drinks companies have even less to raise their glasses to.

**Allied-Lyons**



**WARNINKS**  
The best selling advocaat  
in Britain.

**KAHLUA**  
The best selling imported  
liqueur in America.

**BALLANTINES**  
The best selling scotch  
in Europe.

**HARVEYS**  
The best selling sherry  
in the world.

**COURVOISIER**  
The best selling cognac  
in Canada.

**COCKBURN'S**  
The best selling port  
in Britain.

**BABYCHAM**  
The best selling sparkling  
perry in Britain.

**TIA MARIA**  
The best selling coffee  
liqueur in Britain.

**CANADIAN CLUB**  
The best selling Canadian  
whisky in Canada.



## WORLD SUMMARY

## US hostage seen on Beirut video

Beirut — The kidnappers of Mr Alan Steen, the lecturer abducted in west Beirut last January, yesterday produced a brief videotape of their captive — sitting on the floor of a bare-walled room, reading a long and rambling diatribe against the US Government but looking in remarkably good health (Robert Fisk writes). Last month, his fellow captive, Mr Jesse Turner, said on video that Mr Steen was gravely ill and that his life would "be over in a few hours".

Mr Steen read his statement slowly and with apparent difficulty, insisting that his captors, the "Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine", had saved his life and renewing their demand for the release of prisoners in Israeli jails.

## Cash limit breached Mandela rent

Strasbourg — The European Commission yesterday revealed its draft spending plans for 1988, which breach the EEC revenue ceiling of 1.4 per cent VAT contributions by some £3.5 billion (Richard Owen writes).

Mr Henning Christoffersen, the Budget Commissioner, unveiled a 1988 budget of £28.7 billion, up from £25.4 billion this year. This will anger Mrs Thatcher and others who favour "budget discipline".

## Mines kill 10 troops Aids rule eased

Colombo (AFP) — Ten soldiers were killed and five wounded yesterday by landmines believed planted by Tamil separatists. Seven died and three were injured on a routine patrol in the north-east Trincomalee district; the other casualties occurred when a mine blew up near Morawewa, also in Trincomalee.

Meanwhile, in northern Jaffna the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, continued to shell Kankasanthurai harbour.

## Bing court ruling

New York — A judge has ruled that Sir Rudolph Bing, the former opera impresario, is legally "incompetent" and approved proceedings to annul his four-month marriage (Charles Bremner writes).

Sir Rudolph, aged 85, who suffers from Alzheimer's disease, secretly married Mrs Carroll Douglass, aged 47, in Virginia in January. The couple fled to the Caribbean but were last reported to be in a Yorkshire hotel. Lady Bing was found in contempt of court for ignoring an order to bring her husband back to New York.

## Swastika Kenyan uproar

Vienna — Austria's Parliament broke up in uproar last night when Herr Andreas Wahl, a Greens MP, produced a swastika flag during a debate on President Waldheim (Richard Bassett writes). "This, ladies and gentlemen, is what our Austrian President did his duty for," he said.

Cries from all sides of the House of "shame" drowned the rest of Herr Wahl's speech and the Speaker had to adjourn the debate for half an hour.

## Iran-Contra hearings

## McFarlane 'would have told Reagan'

From Michael Binyon, Washington

Mr Robert McFarlane said yesterday that the approval given to Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North to divert Iran arms profits to the Nicaraguan Contras came at least from Rear-Admiral John Poindexter, his successor as National Security Adviser.

"Something of that magnitude — assuming it were brought to the admiral's attention — I'm sure he would not undertake on his own authority," he told the joint congressional hearings on the Iran-Contra affair. When he was in office, he would not have authorized such a step without consulting the President. But he emphasized that he was only speculating.

Mr McFarlane had told the committee earlier that Colonel North regularly received instructions from the late William Casey, then Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. He said he became aware in autumn 1985 that Colonel North had more contact with Mr Casey than he had realized.

"He mentioned... at one

point to say that the Director had volunteered \$1 million. I think it probably was comic. But it was expressive of a relationship that surprised me." Yesterday he said Mr Casey was a man of intellect, cunningness and devoted to promoting the national interest. He was "more loyal to his President than anyone I've ever seen".

Mr McFarlane, who by Wednesday had become increasingly irritated by more than 15 hours of questioning, regained his composure for his fourth day on the witness stand. He was called back because most congressmen and senators who had not had a chance to put their questions insisted — with a clear eye to the publicity of the live television coverage — on doing so.

Mr McFarlane again defended President Reagan as a "decisive man who does what he believes is right". He has consistently denied that Mr Reagan broke any law, or solicited aid for the Contras when this was banned.

## Poll shows UK police and army highly rated

From Diana Geddes, Paris

The British have a relatively low opinion of their schools, press and trade unions, but a surprisingly high opinion of their army and police, according to a comparative poll of attitudes in social institutions in Britain, France, Germany, Spain and the US.

The poll, published in Britain exclusively in *The Times*, was carried out by Louis Harris International for the French magazine *L'Express* and the Paris-based International Institute

of Geopolitics, whose three-day symposium on "The media, power and democracy" opens here today.

The British took a median position when it came to judging their church, legal system, business community and Parliament, giving them all a confidence rating of between 52 and 56 per cent.

Asked to compare in importance a list of "freedoms", the British put the freedom of information at the top.

## Barbie defies bailiffs and stays in cell

From Michael McCarthy, Lyons

The trial of Klaus Barbie continued yesterday with a glaringly empty dock after the former Gestapo officer, who withdrew from the proceedings on Wednesday, refused two further invitations from the court to take part.

Barbie remained defiantly in his cell a mile from the Lyons Palais de Justice and returned a dusty answer both to the policeman who asked him to turn up for the day, as it were, and to the two court-bailiffs who were later sent with a stiffly formal request to know his intentions.

This archaic procedure, which lasts up to an hour, will now take place at the beginning of each day's session for the rest of the trial, expected to last eight to 10 weeks.

It is always possible that one day Barbie will suddenly decide to present himself, although the fact that his two court-appointed interpreters returned to Paris last night would suggest it is unlikely.

One of them, Mme Karla Dejean, aged 50, a German-born naturalized Frenchwoman, accompanied the bailiffs to his cell and said later: "He was sitting down and got up to say 'hello' and we went through the formalities. He looked the same."

As the trial began again it seemed to a foreign observer very much like Hamlet without the prince, were not the comparison invidious between the Renaissance spirit

who thought what a piece of work is man and the Nazi who allegedly wreaked personal violence on so many human bodies.

But the massed ranks of prosecution lawyers, more than 40 representing victims and their families, accepted it quite placidly. Article 320 of the French Penal Code gives an Assize Court judge power to force an accused person to appear but it is a power that is simply never used.

Maitre Serge Klarsfeld, one of the leading prosecution counsel, told *The Times*: "Far from being disappointed by Barbie's absence I am delighted. Some people will be upset that they will not be able to confront him while others will be relieved. I do not think his presence matters."

His opinion, however, was not shared by Mme Lise Lesevre, the 82-year-old Resistance veteran whose husband and son were allegedly deported to concentration camps and death by Barbie, and who herself was allegedly tortured by him for 19 days. A small, frail, white-haired figure of immense dignity, hobbling into court with a walking stick, she said: "When I was unable to walk to my interrogation sessions I was dragged there. I am extremely sorry he has left. I would have wished to have confronted him."

Barbie left the court on Wednesday saying he had been returned illegally from



Mr Eugene Kolb explaining at his home in the United States how he employed the former Gestapo officer, Klaus Barbie, as an informant for US intelligence in post-war Germany. Mr Kolb said that he was sceptical about the war crimes charges against his former agent.

Bolivia to France in February 1983. Before yesterday's session began, his counsel, Maitre Jacques Vergès commented mockingly: "My client may be physically in France, but legally he is in Bolivia."

Maitre Klarsfeld, however, insisted that Barbie's return had been perfectly legal, and the court heard this confirmed from the Bolivian junior minister who was actually in charge of his expulsion, Señor Gustavo Sánchez.

Señor Sánchez, the Vice-Minister of the Interior in La Paz in 1983, said that the liberal Government of President Siles Zuazo had decided to expel Barbie as an undesirable citizen, which it was legally entitled to do.

## Tough new sex rules issued by Pentagon

From Michael Binyon, Washington

The Pentagon has published sweeping new regulations on the kind of sexual behaviour and misconduct which could be grounds for dismissal from the US armed forces.

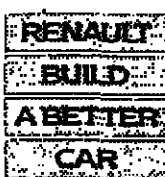
Under the new, tighter rules — which came into effect in January but have only now been published — all servicemen and contractors with security clearance must divulge in any routine review if they have engaged in certain sexual practices.

These include adultery, homosexuality, wife swapping, group sex, sex with animals, and sexual harassment.

Such behaviour could lead to dismissal or the loss of security clearance.

The new code also rules out "deviant or perverted sexual behaviour which may indicate a mental or personality disorder (eg transsexualism, transvestism, exhibitionism... voyeurism, bestiality or sodomy)".

Adultery alone is not an absolute ground for dismissal, but only when such behaviour is "recent, frequent and likely to continue and has an adverse effect on good order or discipline within the workplace".



What a corker.

A free prize draw to win the car that won the 'What Car?' Car of the Year award.

The Renault 21 Savanna GTX.

Pop into your Renault showroom before May 23rd and you could be celebrating in a big way.

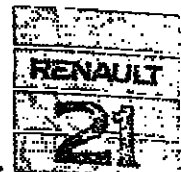
There are other prizes too. As soon as you

walk in the door you'll know whether or not you've won another winner; the 'What Car?' Best Family Saloon — the Renault 21 GTS.

All this and 0% finance\* on the whole Renault 21 range until May 23rd.

Well why not? We did win Car of the Year.

Come to think of it, so might you.



\*This offer is subject to credit status, and applies to all new cars in the Renault 21 range ordered between May 8 and May 23 1987 (offer does not include Channel Isles). Credit facilities provided by Renault Finance Ltd. North West House, City Road, Chester CH1 3AN. Written quotations upon request or from any Renault Dealer (see Yellow Pages). Car shown Renault 21 Savanna GTX, including optional family pack and alloy wheels. List price £10,420 (correct at time of going to press) includes 19% VAT, Car Tax, front and rear seat belts and sound system. Number plates and delivery extra. RENAULT recommends GRI lubricants.

مركز من الاحل





560SEL: 0-62 MPH IN 4.5 SECS. TOP SPEED 176 MPH (MANUFACTURER'S FIGURES, AUTOMATIC). THE S-CLASS RANGE ALSO INCLUDES THE 300SE, 420SE, 420SEL, 500SE AND 600SEL.

## Nothing can surpass taking the back seat in a Mercedes-Benz S-class except, of course, taking the wheel.

In the back of an S-class you can work or relax in a secure cocoon of high technology materials—isolated from distracting noise and vibration. The longest version of the S-class reposes on a wheelbase of more than ten feet and offers combined leg room of over six feet. The options for rear seat passengers include individual reading lights, cigar lighters, foot rests and electrically-operated seats. From the rear seat the car is nothing less than a spacious, comfortable limousine. From the driver's seat things take on a rather different complexion.

The driver is surrounded by more than twenty controls and information sources but their ergonomic refinement is so complete that each falls to hand or eye with almost uncanny familiarity.

An S-class consumes motorway miles with few demands on itself or its occupants, yet it seems to "shrink" in traffic or when the driver chooses to exercise the car's remarkable handling characteristics. The suspension, with coil springs and gas-filled shock absorbers all round, is supplemented with twin control arms at the front to induce anti-dive characteristics. The four-wheel, 11.8 inch disc brakes are supervised through the trickiest situations by the computer in the Mercedes-Benz anti-lock braking system. Take to the hills and lanes and an S-class demonstrates a sure-footedness that belies the size of its interior and the suppleness of its ride.

Flagship of the entire Mercedes-Benz range is the 560SEL. Not since the legendary "6.9" has there been a car with performance like it. The 5.6 litre, light alloy V-8 engine produces a phenomenal 300 bhp. Just how efficiently all this power finds its way to the road is a lesson in Mercedes-Benz engineering.

It starts with a four-speed, dual programme automatic transmission that is the best in the business. From there the power is guided to the wheels via a limited-slip differential. The self-levelling rear suspension and torque-compensating rear axle ensure that everything remains tidy when the wick is turned up.

Many S-class drivers choose the slightly smaller 300SE. Its 3 litre, ohc, fuel-injected six propels the car to 62mph in only 9.1 seconds and to a top speed of 128mph. (Manufacturer's figures, automatic.) Completing the range are the 4.2 litre and 5 litre V-8's available in SE (short) or SEL (long) wheelbase versions.

Other cars might match the S-class on a handful of attributes but no other car offers the same combination of elegance, comfort, performance and versatility.

An S-class is the most complete car in the world.



Engineered like no other car in the world.



Fiji rebellion: Cabinet held ● Governor defiant ● Emergency declared ● Coup condemned

# Confusion as colonel seizes power

The Governor-General of Fiji, Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau, yesterday assumed executive powers and declared a state of emergency after a rebel army officer and 10 accomplices arrested the Governor and declared himself in charge of the Pacific island nation.

The outcome of the action by the group of officers of the Royal Fiji Military Forces was last night confused as the leader of the rebels, a lieutenant-colonel, released statements announcing a takeover while the Governor-General issued a direct challenge to the initiators of the coup move.

Observers said that the Governor-General's action in resisting the coup attempt had possibly placed him in physical danger. But as the crisis continued there had been no reports of bloodshed.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka, the third-ranking military officer in Fiji, had moved against the Government at 10 am yesterday (New Zealand time) by taking into the National Assembly in Suva with 10 other armed officers.

Brandishing pistols, the group headed all 28 members of the recently elected Labour-National Federation Government into army trucks. The MPs, including the Prime Minister, Dr Timoci Bavadra, were taken to the nearby

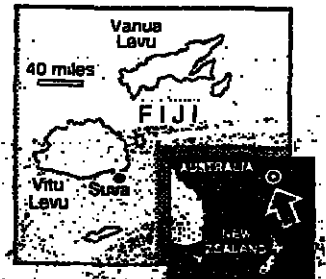
From Russell Hill, Wellington

Queen Elizabeth barracks and held there under guard.

The coup attempt appeared at first to have succeeded completely, with Colonel Rabuka unchallenged as the head of an interim military government and promising to call fresh general elections.

But Ratu Ganilau announced 12 hours later he was taking immediate steps "to restore the lawful situation".

The Governor-General called on all members of the



Army, police and public service to return to their lawful allegiance.

The message was broadcast on the commercial radio station FM96 but not immediately by the Government-financed National Radio network, which has been under military control.

The Governor-General's statement, in his own words, read: "People of Fiji, I am deeply disturbed by the events of this morning during a

sitting of the National Assembly.

"The unlawful seizure of members of my Government and some members of Parliament has created an unprecedented situation which must not be allowed to continue.

"The executive power under the constitution of Fiji is vested in Her Majesty the Queen which, by law and convention, I exercise on her behalf on the advice of the Cabinet. In the temporary absence of Ministers of the Crown, I have assumed that authority."

The radio station was instructed by the military not to re-broadcast the message.

Colonel Rabuka had earlier indicated that he had asked the Governor-General to continue in his position when the constitution had been restored.

The rebel colonel asserted that the Governor-General had agreed, provided the Queen gave her consent.

The coup attempt was seen as a direct result of the election last month of the coalition Government headed by Dr Bavadra.

The upset victory for the coalition brought racial tensions in Fiji to a head.

Leading article, page 15



Dr Bavadra: Taken from Parliament yesterday with his Government colleagues by a group of armed officers.

Man in the news

## Rugby player who led raid

From Russell Hill, Wellington

The leader of the first attempted coup against a South Pacific government, Lieutenant-Colonel Sitiveni (Steve) Rabuka, was described by associates yesterday as a highly respected and popular officer in the Royal Fiji Military Forces.

A former Fiji Assistant Secretary of Defence, Mr Philip Kibb, said last night that the action by "Colonel Rabuka, the third highest-ranking member of the Fiji Army, in leading a raid by officers on the National Assembly and abducting the members of the recently elected Government including the Prime Minister, Dr Timoci

Bavadra, was completely out of character. "He is too mild a man to play in something like this — without a doubt he is being pushed," he said.

Another personal friend, the Fiji Consul in Auckland, Major Mike Yasa, said of the 38-year-old colonel: "He is very popular with the boys in the Army. I always found him one who reasoned things out."

The physically robust colonel, a devout Christian who has represented Fiji overseas in rugby and athletics, was described by others who knew him as a pacifist, but "not violent."

Trained in New Zealand

and at Sandhurst, he served with the 6th Gurkha Rifles in Hong Kong and completed two tours with Fiji's peacekeeping forces in the Middle East.

In 1981 he was made an officer of the Order of the British Empire, in part for "his imagination and innovation" in confronting and restraining operations of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The New Zealand Prime Minister, Mr David Lange, said yesterday that Colonel Rabuka was a member of a force with combat skills "unparalleled" among other smaller South Pacific states. Rugby connection, page 36

## Profile of a Pacific trouble spot

- Population: 714,989. 830,700 (1982 est.)
- Indigenous: Melanesians (Fijians) 57 per cent, Indo-Fijians 37 per cent, other races 6 per cent
- Area: Made up of more than 300 islands, atolls covering 7,085 square miles in the south-west Pacific
- Capital: Suva
- Economy: GDP at end-1985 was estimated at F\$1.18 billion (£637 million). 1986 estimate F\$1.18 billion. Per capita GDP at end-1985 F\$1,684
- Main industries: Sugar, coconut, cocoa, copper, fish, pine timber, tourism, fish and garments
- History: First sighted by a Dutch expedition led by Abel Tasman in 1643. Declared a British colony on October 10, 1874. Achieved independence from Britain on October 10, 1970.

● Government: Fiji has a two-chamber Parliament — the House of Representatives and the Senate. The head of state is the Queen, who is represented by a Governor-General. It is a member of the Commonwealth.

● Armed forces: The Royal Fiji Military Forces consist of 2,670 men. The Army is made up of one regular battalion and two para-military battalions and numbers 2,500 men. The Navy has 170 men and three small patrol boats.

● Foreign relations: The coalition Government pledged a non-aligned foreign policy and said it would ban all nuclear-powered warships to help make the South Pacific a nuclear-free zone. Under the previous Alliance Party Government, Fiji was known for its pro-Western stance. Fiji also plays a leading role in regional organizations. It retains strong traditional ties with Britain

## Hawke and Lange watch and wait

From A Correspondent, Wellington

The Governments of Australia and New Zealand have condemned yesterday's coup d'état in Fiji — the first in any South Pacific country — but have given no indication of a possible military intervention.

Mr David Lange, the New Zealand Prime Minister, conferred at least three times by telephone with Mr Bob Hawke, his Australian counterpart. However, last night the two had agreed only to keep each other informed of developments and to continue monitoring the situation closely.

In Canberra, Mr Hawke told the federal Parliament his Government had been deeply distressed and disturbed by the coup.

It was obvious not all the facts had yet emerged, he said. "In particular, we do not yet know whether the armed forces takeover is supported by all of the armed forces."

Australian naval vessels on a routine visit to Fiji had been told by Canberra to stay clear of events surrounding the coup.

Both Mr Hawke and Mr Lange have instructed their diplomatic representatives in Suva not to attend a meeting of diplomatic heads of mis-

sion, called by the instigators of the coup.

Mr Lange told the New Zealand Parliament that his Government deplored the military takeover in Fiji.

He said there was no question of New Zealand going "unsolicited" into Fiji militarily. However, the Government would consider its position if there was a call for help from a legitimate administration.

"The solution to the problem lies not in military intervention — of that I am sure."

Mr Lange dismissed suggestions that a foreign power could be behind the coup. He described the situation leading up to it as "exquisitely and, unfortunately, excruciatingly Fijian".

● DELHI: The Indian Government yesterday expressed distress at the army coup in Fiji which toppled the Indian-majority Government and urged a speedy return to parliamentary government (Reuters reports).

The Press Trust of India quoted Mr T. P. Sreenivasan, the Indian High Commissioner in Suva, as saying: "It is my hope and trust that lives and property of Indian nationals will be safe."

## Setback to Alfonsín trial move

From Eduardo Cúe, Buenos Aires

The Argentine Congress yesterday began examining a proposed law that would halt most human rights trials against military officers, after the Chamber of Deputies refused to consider the legislation on an emergency basis.

The 132 to 77 vote in the Lower House on Wednesday against an immediate vote on the issue came as a surprise to the Government, which could not come up with the two-thirds majority necessary for a Bill to be considered without prior study by congressional committees. Approval of the legislation is now expected in two or three days.

The law proposed by President Alfonsín presumes that all officers below the rank of colonel acted under orders.

"I know that through this law the authors of extremely serious actions may remain free, and I don't like it," President Alfonsín said. "But it is also true that the legal responsibility for human rights violations falls primarily on those who conceived the plan and ordered that it be carried out."

## New head key issue for Unesco

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Unesco's 50-member board began its spring meeting in Paris this week with the critical question of the organization's next director-general, although not on the agenda, overshadowing the five-week session.

Dr Amadou M'bow, a former Education Minister of Senegal, announced last October that he would not be seeking a third six-year term as director-general, but it is thought that he still might stand if the 159 member states fail to agree on a successor.

Many believe that he is already working to be re-elected.

Eight official candidates have so far been declared, including four from Asia, two from the Eastern Bloc, one from Latin America, and one from the Western group of countries. There is no official candidate so far from Africa.

Mr M'bow's spokesman said this week that the list of official candidates would be circulated "in confidence" to member states by June 1, in time for the autumn board session to select a name for formal election by the full Unesco general conference on November 14.

However, Mr Diène made it clear that member states will be able to put forward names until the last minute.

The future of the troubled organization depends on the calibre of the man or woman chosen as a successor to the widely discredited Mr M'bow.

The US departure from Unesco in 1984, followed by Britain's a year later, deprived the organization of 30 per cent of its income, provoking a financial crisis.

Deep cuts were made in Unesco's programmes and nearly 800 administrative posts were shed. The organization is nevertheless still facing a \$39 million (£22 million) deficit.



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## Beaten Malta premier has heart attack as new Cabinet is sworn in

From Austin Sammut, Valletta

Dr Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici, the outgoing Maltese Prime Minister, was in a hospital intensive therapy unit yesterday after suffering a serious heart attack at the Malta Labour Party (MLP) headquarters on Wednesday evening. Family sources said his condition was at times critical.

Dr Mifsud Bonnici will be out of action for some time, and it is doubtful if his health will allow him to continue as opposition and party leader.

The same sources attributed his illness to a violent row between different factions of the MLP at a party executive conference and parliamentary group meeting.

Unconfirmed reports said that Dr Mifsud Bonnici and his predecessor, Mr Dom Mintoff, were severely criticized by senior party members, and notably the former Minister of Works, Mr Lorry Sant.

They were blamed for Saturday's electoral defeat, which gave the Nationalist Party (PN) a majority of parliamentary seats only by virtue of a constitutional amendment engineered by Mr Mintoff, backed by Dr Mifsud Bonnici, and passed by the House of Representatives in January. Without this amendment, the MLP would have retained the Government.

even though the PN obtained an absolute majority of the popular vote.

The Labour leader's situation creates a serious problem for his party. The filling of the void which he may leave could lead to serious strife and even a split within its ranks.

There is speculation that Mr Mintoff, who literally bequeathed his power to Dr Mifsud Bonnici in December 1984, might try to step back into the leadership.

Meanwhile, the new Prime Minister, Dr Eddie Fenech Adami, has announced his Cabinet, which consists of a record 18 ministers and junior ministers, as well as unusual portfolios which are a marked departure from the traditional nomenclatures.

The PN deputy leader, Dr Guido De Marco, is Deputy



Dr Fenech Adami: Record number of ministers.

Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior and Justice. Other appointments include: Foreign Affairs Dr Vincent Tabone; Education Dr Ugo Mifsud Bonnici; Social Policy Dr Luis Galea; Finance Dr George Bonello Du Puis; Development of the Infrastructure Mr Michael Falzon; Productive Development Mr Lawrence Gatt; Development of the Tertiary Sector Dr Emanuel Bonnici; Gozo Mr Anton Tabone.

The official results of last Saturday's general elections gave the Nationalists an absolute majority of 50.9 per cent of the votes with a bare margin of 4,700 votes more than the MLP.

The MLP still managed to obtain 34 of the 65 parliamentary seats. However, under the mechanism established by last January's constitutional amendments, the PN was allotted four extra seats to give it a majority of 35 to 34 in the House of Representatives.

The percentage of votes obtained by the respective political parties on a national level are: MLP 48.87 per cent; PN 50.91 per cent; others 0.21 per cent.

The 1981 general elections figures were: MLP 49.07 per cent; PN 50.92 per cent; others 0.01 per cent.

## Sihanouk steps down for a year to seek peace talks with Hanoi

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

Prince Norodom Sihanouk, leader of Cambodia's anti-Vietnam resistance, has stepped aside temporarily to make a private approach to the Vietnamese Government to end the war which has been going on in his country for eight-and-a-half years, according to diplomats and resistance officials in Thailand.

They say he feels he cannot make such an approach, which would also involve contacts with the government Vietnam installed in Cambodia, except in an unofficial capacity because of opposition by sections of his resistance coalition and by China and the Associ-

ation of South-East Asian Nations.

His announcement in Pyongyang yesterday that he was giving up the leadership for one year because of attacks on his soldiers by Khmer Rouge guerrillas in western Cambodia came as a surprise even to his son, Prince Ranariddh, who commands the Sihanouk forces on the Thai border.

The Prince said he would prolong his leave of absence year by year until the Khmer Rouge killings stopped. He said their killing of two of his soldiers two weeks ago was only the latest of many attacks.

In the most bitter comment he has made on the Khmer Rouge since he formed a coalition with them, he referred to "the deadly violation of human rights" among civilian refugees in Thailand by what he called the "SS of the Khmer Rouge who have stayed loyal to the super-Hitlerian, super-Stalinist methods of Mr Pol Pot".

Pol Pot, the former Khmer Rouge leader who is still thought to hold the real power, is blamed for the deaths of large numbers of Cambodians, including several children and other close relatives of Prince Sihanouk.

## Petrol bombs in Seoul student riots



Students at Korea University in Seoul hurling petrol bombs at riot police yesterday during an anti-government protest. Students battled with riot police at at least four leading universities in Seoul as protests continued for a fourth day against President Chun's Government (AP reports).

and petrol bombs tried to march out of Korea University, but were driven back repeatedly by tear gas and police charges. Students used torches to set an armoured police car on fire.

Clashes were also reported at universities in several provincial cities, including Chonnam University in the southern city of Kwangju, where students set up

barricades and fought riot police who stormed the campus to rescue an officer seized earlier. Protests have flared because of the anniversary on Monday of a 1980 anti-government uprising in Kwangju in which scores of people died. The Opposition also is demanding that Mr Chun agree to direct presidential elections.

## Delhi High Commission controversy

### British 'black hole' angers Indians

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

The temperature outside was 89 degrees Fahrenheit, about 20 degrees less than it might normally be at this time of year, but Delhi is having an unusually mild summer. Inside the waiting room at the British High Commission, however, the temperature was nearly at boiling point.

A long, thin shack, newly built, 40 ft by 15 ft, contained around 200 people, some confused, some resigned, many angry, all waiting for permission to visit Britain.

A harassed Indian clerk called out names. From time to time he argued with individuals crowded at his window. In the morning he had faced a queue which went the length of the building, and out of the door, as many people sat on benches waiting.

Three air conditioners (one more has been recently installed) failed to cope with the weather plus the combined

body heat of the people waiting. The air became warm enough to stir, and the room began to justify the title "the Black Hole of Calcutta" which a letter to *The Times* (Letters May 14) gave it.

"Is there no way this can be made more efficient?" asked one businessman crossly. "Look, there is only one window operating, why can't they use two windows?"

"Don't they give any special consideration to people who are members of the Commonwealth Society?" he asked.

When they hand in their passport, application form and money, a visa official tells them whether they will need an interview or not. If an interview is necessary they will have to wait some more.

"I have been waiting here all day," said one young father. "You can't keep your baby here for so long in the heat and the dirt of this place. And there is nothing to eat here. There is nowhere to get a bite.

At least in the American Embassy there is a trolley that comes round and you can get something in the middle of the day."

The High Commission officials themselves explain that they are doing their best to meet the rush as efficiently as

possible. They have tripled the number of entry clearance officers brought out from Britain to 15. Between them last week they issued 1,531 non-settlement visas.

The waiting-room space is to be doubled shortly with another room being built. "I want it built before the monsoon comes," said an official.

But, in the meantime, why not open another window? "We need the second window for people making a general inquiry," he said. He

pointed out that there is also a separate window for travel agents to use, or for those people who wish to send their driver or secretary to deposit their visa applications.

Officials were angry at accusations made in *The Times* letter that they behaved like relics of the British Raj. "We always insist that all people are entitled to politeness," a senior officer said. "And a very serious view is taken when any officer is found to be less than courteous."

Though there were many complaints about the inefficiency of the system yesterday, there were no complaints of discourtesy.

And to be perfectly fair, it should also be pointed out that a visa regime which was imposed on British citizens by the Indian Government in 1984, with virtually no notice, caused a good deal of unpleasantness to Britons wishing to travel to Delhi.

● You can't keep your baby here long in the heat and dirt ●

## Philippines protest fuelled by delays

Manila — Thousands of right-wingers staged a protest march yesterday at the site of last year's February revolt, demanding fresh elections and an end to the "new dictatorship" (David Watts writes).

Police sealed off nearly two miles of the four-lane highway in front of Manila's two main military camps, where hundreds of thousands of Filipinos massed in revolt against President Marcos.

The radio station loyal to the deposed president called on soldiers to join the crowd of several thousand demonstrators, led by the former Defence Minister, Mr Juan Ponce Enrile, in protest against alleged fraudulent elections.

Mr Enrile appears to be staking out a position to erode President Aquino's public popularity. His low standing in the senatorial vote at present rules out a legitimate path to power.

The slow start by the Commission on Elections on checking returns has fuelled opposition accusations of cheating. The count started yesterday, and is expected to take at least a week.

## World Court

The Hague (AP) — Judge Keba Mbaye of Senegal, an internationally known legal authority on human rights, has been elected Vice-President of the World Court.

## Gunman shot

Varese (AP) — Giuseppe Cusumano, aged 23, sought for killing his estranged wife's mother and her grandparents, was seriously wounded and arrested yesterday in a shootout with Italian police at a road-block south of here.

## Iran break

Cairo (Reuters) — Egypt officially announced it was closing the Iranian interest section in Cairo, expelling the resident Iranian diplomat and recalling its sole diplomat from Tehran.

## Tycoon dies

Taipei (AFP) — Mr Tsai Chen-chou, jailed head of the collapsed Cathay Plastics conglomerate, died in hospital of complications caused by liver cancer.

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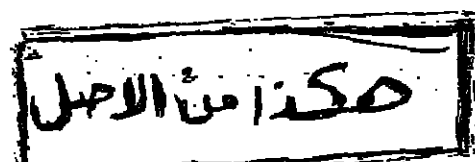
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## FRIDAY PAGE

## A simply killing time

Jane Moyle's customers don't want to hear about Saxon ditches; they are much more interested in seeing Lord N's rude photographs, she says disarming. She finds nothing incongruous in the idea of 110 impeccably dressed "Rolls-Royce wives" drinking in a peer's erotica with their stately tea and scones.

An intriguing mixture of gentility and self-promotion, Mrs Moyle maintains that her customers are "just average British housewives like me. All they want is a nice, lively day out — not a Westminster Abbey guide or a high falloo'n grand tour."

But when blue-chip companies like ICI or Unilever or top fashion names like Laura Ashley and Estée Lauder want to devise something different for their jaded executives, they also call on Jane Moyle. Her Heart of England Country Tours and its subsequent additions, West of England Country Tours and Moyle's Motivational Marketing (masterminded by her son Charles), now handles a large proportion of the conference business in Britain.

She employs 12 full-time guides — all clones of herself, she insists, and under orders to wear lipstick at all times — and runs murder weekends, commando courses, luxury tours and parties for hundreds.

"This is a big European account with over a quarter of a million to spend on staff motivation," she announces of an incoming phone call from Charles, apparently in London clinching the deal.

"Charles is planning some very ambitious things for them, including recreating a fairground in a supertanker," his mother enthuses. "It's going to be worth a small fortune to yours truly!"

Plans for an as yet unsuspecting Swedish paper company include the Murder in the Grand Manor weekend (£269 per person plus VAT); a wild party in the Wooley Holes similar to the one which thrilled the Laura Ashley crowd last year ("they adored all the old penny fairground games we had — but then they were pretty tanked up at the time," Mrs Moyle recalls); an SAS-type commando course, and shooting with crossbows, longbows and Smith & Wesson revolvers.

"I'd love to drive a tank — wouldn't you?" Mrs Moyle demands suddenly and with fervour. "But I never get the chance; someone else always wants a turn."

Her military-minded son has turned his hand to developing incentive courses for companies wishing to test the mettle of their management recruits. "He knows the most marvellous chap who produces splendid pyrotechnics with dry ice, fireworks, sound effects — the lot," she says. "We can even provide a trained psychologist if the companies wish, to assess leadership qualities."

This weekend Jane Moyle may arrange a murder — or take a sales force over a commando course. Victoria McKee on a most peculiar business



Jane Moyle — dramatic packages: "I'd love to drive a tank — wouldn't you?"

It's amazing how competitive they become — the bosses love it!

It was Charles who found the gypsy caravan that now plays such a vital role in the murder weekends. "The lady who plays the gypsy is actually a squint of the county," Mrs Moyle says, "and after seeing nothing but good, of course, in the guests' hands she takes one of the actors' and says, 'I see nothing but blood, blood, blood!' And then, her own idea

entirely, she unhitches her horse from the caravan and gallops off across her valley, scattering sheep as she goes. It's extremely effective."

A company director recently gave his wife a murder weekend at more than £7,200 for her fiftieth birthday present. For those who are feeling less expensively homicidal, a single evening's murder cabaret with audience participation is about £950 plus VAT, refreshments and room-hire

charges extra. Estée Lauder's London staff enjoyed one as their Christmas party.

But although Mrs Moyle has fun developing her special dramatic packages, which she manages herself, the Cotswold tours, including teas in manor houses with the lord and lady, are still her bread and butter.

She started off simply taking tourists for day trips around the Midlands in her own car at £35 a day. Her four children were growing up and she had time to spare. Local hoteliers were delighted at the way she took guests off their hands, and word got round.

She used to bring her clients into her own not-so-humble 17th-century farmhouse for tea, but these days, "with names like Jane and Peter Cadbury in their beautiful manor house, just down the road, why bother? One has to think of what will appeal to the guests."

She is still not above "spotting a super house and going along to chat the owners up" since the essence of her success, as she sees it, is being able to bring people into stately homes to mix on a personal basis with those who were to be the manor born.

The Guernseys at Packington Hall who are such marvellous party-givers, the Cobhams at Hagley Hall and the Herfords at Ragley — all form part of Mrs Moyle's impressive network of hosts. They give dinner parties and receptions at her bidding.

To someone who says sweetly that all she ever wanted out of life was a nice home, it gives great pleasure to have scores of the finest at her command. For a girl who left Edgerton Church of England College with only four O levels she has not done badly, she thinks. Having a wealthy husband, she is the first to agree, has not been a drawback.

Ask about her precise profits and Jane Moyle becomes uncharacteristically coy. "Let's just say it's six figures and going up. We're coming along very nicely, thank you. And there are some amazing new things on the horizon!" In July she plans to begin P.G. Wodehouse tours of Worcestershire, for which Lord Ashcombe, of Sudeley Castle, has been persuaded to play Lord Emsworth of Blandings — complete with pig.

But she insists she won't take parties to any National Trust member. "They won't open privately and my people won't go with the hoi polloi. I said to the director general, 'Do you know that if it wasn't for people like me these houses wouldn't be here in 200 years? I could do so much for your properties — sons et lumieres, gourmet dinners, garden parties, the lot.'"

"And do you know what he said? 'You could have the tea rooms.' I mean, really!"

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## Neighbours in law

The way I found out about Neighbourhood Watch was when the chap in the flat upstairs telephoned to tell me that I should wash my hair for the first meeting. "It's a good place to make new friends," he said. "I've washed mine." He left for the meeting by himself, so that he would clearly be a spare man.

The first get-together was held at the St John Ambulance house just down the street, and it was packed full of people with washed hair. Apparently, our section of central Londoners the threat of crime the way Islington does the bomb, as a responsible opportunity to find new partners.

A film was shown all about crime prevention and when the lights went on the policeman in charge, who explained that he was really our Crime Prevention Officer, told us that our street had been burgled twice in the last month. A flush of excitement went around the room as we came to terms with the fact that ours was a crime zone.

After that the group got down to business. An elderly woman who had been burgled pointed out in impeccable diphthongs that the entire problem of crime was related to whistles.

"If we could all be given whistles by the police," she explained, "this sort of thing wouldn't happen." The Crime Prevention Officer noted the suggestion. A great deal of attention was then paid to the question of alarm systems on our street, which have a habit of going off at weekends and being left unattended until Monday, ringing away all the time.

"Couldn't we arrest people for going away and letting their alarms ring?" asked a number of residents. The policeman explained that this was not a crime. Moreover, he continued, the police were not allowed to go and turn alarms off. This didn't cut much ice with older residents who had honed their skills over years of power cuts, shortages and the Blitz.

"If you take a stick," explained one agile woman in her late sixties to the assembled crime busters, "and knock away, you can break them." General nodding greeted this bit of wisdom.

The essential elements of Neighbourhood Watch were explained to us. The police would help us mark our property, so that it could be identified if stolen. They would look at our locks, bolts



BARBARA AMIEL

and bars. Most important, we would all keep an eye on the street and help one another; call up the police if we saw suspicious people; be aware of the opportunities scaffolding creates for burglary.

The heart of the problem for most of us was that we had absolutely no way of identifying a suspicious person. I have lived on the street for several years and I didn't recognize a soul at the meeting, except my friend from upstairs who by now was very much taken with the two extremely attractive police-women introduced to us as further members of "our crime prevention team"; they got a warm round of applause.

I have lived on the street for several years and I didn't recognize a soul except my friend from upstairs

plause. The old houses on our street are constantly being propped up with new coats of paint and bits of plaster, and workmen in spattered white overalls are indistinguishable from burglars in white overalls. One woman at the meeting explained that she had been keeping an eye on the street and only the week before she had reported a loitering stranger to the police. The chap had forthwith been questioned by an alert patrolman, and it had taken him some time to establish that he had locked himself out of his flat with no keys or identification.

At the end of the meeting, I signed up. Three weeks later, my husband and I found ourselves locked out of our flat. My husband climbed up

on the window sill and, balancing precariously in the shadows, lowered himself through the front window. Not a curtain moved on the street.

My own view is that this sort of programme is very comforting, but the minute it has to be organized by the government through the police, it is pointless. For Neighbourhood Watch to work, it must be spontaneous. A sense of neighbourhood can't be infused — it is either there or it isn't. The minute you have to sponsor neighbourliness, it is a certainty that it doesn't exist; and the money and effort would be better spent on developing the electronics necessary to prevent alarm systems going off when the burglars aren't there, and not ringing when they are.

Nor do I think we can put the onus on the police for this sort of crime prevention. I tried calling my Crime Prevention Officer all day yesterday and only got his pleasant voice on a recording machine. I can't blame the police for wanting to spend their time on more important things than chatting to me about marking my silver or looking at my mortice bolts.

Of course, I can't help reflecting that we live in a time of pretty low crime rates anyway. Crime seems to go in cycles, and the last real spurts were in the early decades of the 19th century, followed by lowering rates until the mid-20th century and then a spurt upwards through the 1970s. There is some evidence (Chaiken & Chaiken, 1983 and Farrington and Dowds, 1984) that our crime rates have flattened out and may be declining again. This isn't much comfort for people living in the urban war zone. I know, but it should be noted as the tabloids go on about the crime explosion.

Meanwhile, I am very grateful to my Neighbourhood Watch liaison officer, who just sent me a note advising of the "Forthcoming distribution of telephone books". He urges all members to remove from view any unattended books to "minimize the risk of burglary". I have been trying unsuccessfully for 18 months to get telephone directories from British Telecom. Now I shall have to sit at my window waiting for the books before hordes of eager neighbours seize the damn things and take them into the safety of their homes for my own good. The Neighbourly State is a marvellous thing.

## Parent imperfect

The notion that parents may need to be trained for their role is gaining ground — with both sexes



enough' parent, instead of being a 'perfect' parent' — and now, as part of his plans to run a community nursery, he is going on an EP training course to improve his skills in working with parents.

In contrast Brian Humphreys, a chartered accountant from north London, wants to set up a parents' self-help

group among his religious community, a Reform synagogue in Finchley. He is married, with two daughters aged 21 and 19. Three years ago he too went to his first EP session, on "living with teenagers", and came away "comforted and feeling I hadn't done anything awful; teenage reactions tend to happen. I feel there is a great deal of work to be done in the whole area of parenting." He envisages holding an initial meeting using EP help and hopes to run a self-supporting programme with occasional outside help.

EP was founded in 1982 by Ruth Schmidt, a child psychotherapist, and Carolyn Douglas, a family therapist, who had worked together for many years in the Paddington Centre for Psychotherapy's Department for Children and Parents. Many parents, they found, would have welcomed

the opportunity to discuss behavioural patterns with professionals before a crisis occurred.

Since EP's foundation in 1982, its team of 20 have held 200 sessions for more than 2,000 parents, and this Sunday they start their summer programme in London. The workshops are informal gatherings where parents, doctors, child and family therapists and psychologists explore the challenges of being a parent. The groups visited and topics discussed vary enormously: in Belfast, parents explored how to cope with adolescents who risk being shot in confrontations with the police, and some lively discussions have been held with Wormwood Scrubs prisoners on how far you should discipline children.

"We had hoped that people would set up their own groups," Schmidt says. "How-

ever, although self-help groups are popular, it is surprisingly difficult to get one off the ground — and many founder. It became apparent that people needed a bridge between self-help and professional expertise." So the national training courses were born, to help parents set up local self-help groups.

Mary Jane Naylor is also going on a training course. A 33-year-old single parent who runs an 85-strong playgroup in Leicestershire, Naylor says she wants to extend the playgroup's family support service. "One of the parents' biggest problems is loneliness. I found that after dropping their children many parents stood outside to chat."

The playgroup now has a drop-in room where parents can talk. But Naylor frequently finds herself out of her depth, not having the experience or knowledge to provide the particular support that is needed. She knows she is an organizer and a bit pushy, and wants to learn how to sit back and persuade others to organize themselves. She also hopes to acquire the skills necessary to attract parents who most need a group's support — the very parents least likely to come.

Peta Levi

For information on future workshops and the training course contact Exploring Parenthood, Omnibus Workshop, 39-41 North Road, London N7 9DP (01-607 9647).

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From: Dr Michael Glynn, The London Hospital, London E1

Victoria McKee's article (Health Page, May 7) was titled "Why can't the experts agree on Aids?". But I think that many of your readers will have been impressed by the remarkable agreement between the five experts indicated in the table. If a similar group had been selected to answer questions regarding such medical topics as the risk of heart disease, cancer, alcohol abuse, or other vital issues such as the safety of nuclear waste or acid rain, it is extremely unlikely that anything like the same degree of consistency would have been achieved.

The title of your article will have conveyed the impression, to those readers who did not study the expert's answers in detail, that the Government's advice about Aids is inconsistent and unimportant. This is most unfortunate since if peo-

## TALKBACK

ple were to concentrate on avoiding the known risks, rather than arguing about theoretical and certainly misused ones, this country would have a better chance of defeating the Aids epidemic, the greatest potential danger to public health this century.

From: Mrs P A Hammond, Witely Avenue, Solihull, Birmingham

Victoria McKee's article illustrates the rather worrying proprietary attitude which is creeping into the Aids debate. "Experts" seem to be defending opinions very loosely based on research.

How, for instance, can anyone be sure which of the activities leading up to and during the act of sex is responsible for the vital exchange of infected bodily fluids? How can we believe that the Aids virus is fragile when

it survives the complexities of factor 8 production (which involves freeze drying to a powder and long refrigerated storage)? American research has postulated a life of 15 days in aqueous solution. How can we believe that an Aids victim's face-flannel, smeared with blood after shaving, is less risky than a blood-stained toothbrush?

It is obvious, too, that although at present the danger of infection from blood donations is small, given 70,000 estimated carriers and the late appearance of marker antibodies it is inevitable that a significant number will be infected with Aids through this medium.

It is difficult to dismiss the suspicion that issues are being fudged.

Many of us remember the deliberations of the experts in 1980/81 when Aids was first described, and it seems that the objectivity lacking then is still in short supply.

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## SPECTRUM

## Gardens worth a mint

To the untrained eye, the grounds of London's Royal Horticultural Society's Chelsea Flower Show are a vast, flat, open space of recreational grassland. But the small, detached, of workmen, guided by maps and memory, knew exactly what they were looking for.

They bent down, occasionally, carefully rolled back a turf or two and plunged practised arms deep into the ground. And within hours they had conjured to the surface a bewildering network of electrical and telephone cables from their subterranean hideaway.

That was three weeks ago. Since then, larger armies from the Royal Horticultural Society and about 400 firms and organizations have set up shop with everything from the humblest, passy, to bonsai trees, each and every one of them, creating the world's most luxurious instant garden.

From the moment that the first paying customer at the 66th Chelsea Flower Show handed over his £14 admission money next Wednesday, until the close at 5pm on Friday, something like a quarter of a million visitors will have passed through the gates.

Although some \$0,000 of these will use their membership of the RHS and affiliated horticultural

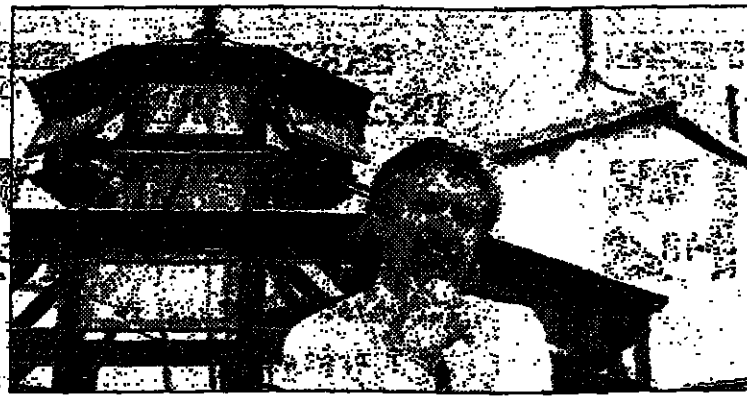
A green and pleasant corner of Chelsea will again become a seething mass of blooms, tents and people next week as the 66th flower show takes root.

William Greaves met the man in charge

associations to get in free, and others will take advantage of the reduced admission price of £6 after 4pm, the money collected at the turnstiles could amount to around £2 million in ready cash.

With virtually all the costs of staging the exhibition and producing the catalogue met by exhibitors and advertisers, respectively, it is not hard to see why the flowers that bloom in the spring bring a joyous smile to those who watch over the Royal Horticultural Society's business sheet.

To show manager Allan Sawyer, however, any suggestion that the show is seen as a nice little earner brings pained reproach. "It's quite true that the advertisers pay for the printing of the catalogue and that we



Allan Sawyer: "Visitors have less space than they deserve for the money"

sell them for £1.50 each, but with more than 100 pages full of information they are well worth the price," he says.

And although more than 200 exhibitors pay anything between £500 and £5,000 for their pitch, Sawyer is quick to point out that those in the giant three-and-a-half-acre marquee pay nothing and that the revenue does not fully offset the overheads.

"At the first place," he says, "we don't collect £2 million because a lot of people in the London area know that the price goes down at 4pm and that they've still got another four hours after that in which to have a good look round."

"You must also remember that

the RHS is an educational charity which gets no government support, and that we have to fund 12 other shows throughout the year at our Vincent Square (Pimlico) headquarters.

Then there is the fact that the Royal Hospital is not normally an exhibition centre so, despite paying a large rental, we get none of the facilities which would be provided automatically at places like Olympia or Earls Court.

Over the years the RHS has had to pay for massive drainage schemes to cope with lavatories and the rain water spillage from the giant marquee, as well as building roads. It is now faced with the sobering prospect of having to do this all over again if it finds a suitable larger site

in London to cope with the show's expansion.

"Our visitors have less space than they deserve for the money and we have to turn away at least 15 per cent of the exhibitors who would like to participate," Sawyer says.

The responsibility of looking after the world's most famous flower show does not seem to rest too heavily on Sawyer's shoulders, however. At 41, this is his 13th Chelsea show, having taken over from the legendary Ron Sargent, who ran the previous 40.

Sawyer graciously acknowledges that there are some financial advantages in the show's international prestige. Exhibitors who have come to expect free lorry parking, free paving stones and even free peat when showing abroad, foot all these bills themselves, "with surprising willingness" at Chelsea.

And with the bank holiday following close on the heels of the show, many of the Chelsea visitors, fired by a newfound enthusiasm, traditionally use the break to clear the shelves and beds of their nearest garden centre.

"Our own gardens at Wisley always enjoy a particularly profitable weekend," says Sawyer, smiling.

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## A damper on rain by plane

Man's efforts to control rainfall have mainly been a washout and the latest attempts by the Chinese look destined for the same fate

In the latest attempt by man to alter the weather, Chinese fire-fighters were reported to be preparing aircraft to "seed" rainclouds this week. The aim was to create heavy rainfall which would put out a huge forest fire that has killed more than 170 people.

For thousands of years we have tried prayer, incantation and ritual to control the weather, with little apparent success. Since the late 1940s, however, there have been serious scientific proposals for weather modification, after the discovery that tiny crystals of either dry ice or silver iodide could alter radically the properties of clouds.

It was argued that by seeding clouds with these crystals, more rainfall could be produced in arid areas, and that the same process could reduce the damage caused by severe storms and hurricanes.

Seeding experiments soon followed, as did the controversy created by them. Some early work appeared to show dramatic growth in seeded clouds and increased rainfall. But when, in 1947, a hurricane over the United States was seeded and promptly altered course, slamming into Savannah, Georgia, the dangers of tampering with the weather became apparent.

In the 1950s, thriving commercial operations were set up in several parts of the world to provide local agriculture with increased rainfall during droughts. Objections to these activities fell into two categories. On one hand, it was argued that we should not meddle with complex systems we did not understand, and on

the other that there was little statistical evidence to prove that the seeding worked.

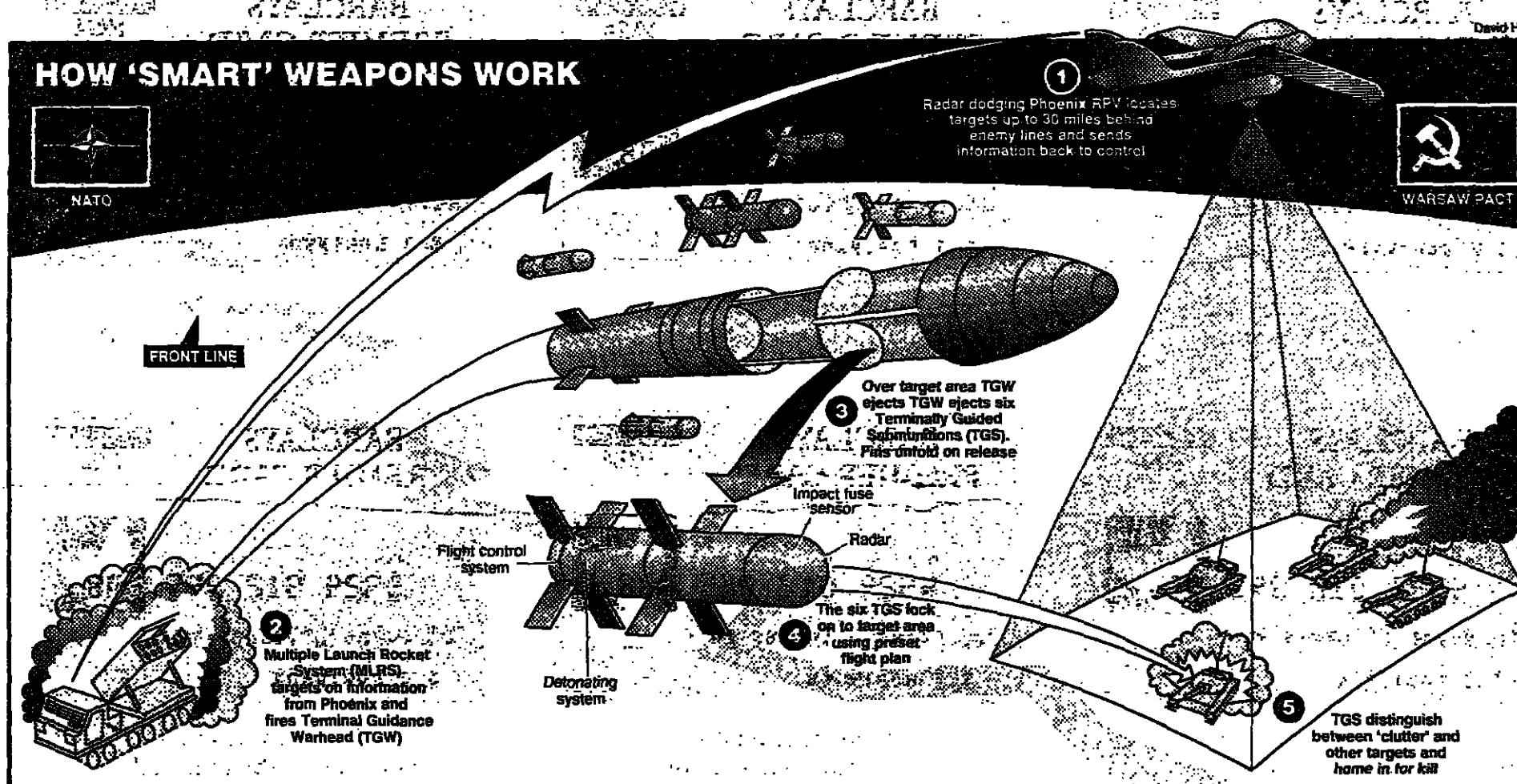
Throughout the 1960s and early 70s, pressure grew for more rigorous statistical tests to be conducted on seeding work. These demands were fuelled by the bad press that weather modification received in the early 1970s. The flash flood in Rapid City, South Dakota, which killed more than 200 people in 1972, was linked with local seeding activities, while suspicion of American efforts to flood parts of Vietnam in order to impede the movement of the Vietcong led to Senate hearings.

During the 1970s a number of experiments were conducted, backed by rigorous statistical checks. The results were a disappointment to the weather modification enthusiasts. Only one experiment in the past few years seems to have had any real success. This was to increase winter rainfall in the catchment area of the Sea of Galilee. It produced an increase in precipitation of 18 per cent on days when clouds were seeded. Moreover, this increase did not appear to have been counterbalanced by a drop in rainfall in adjacent regions. Generally, however, nearly 40 years' work has produced few worthwhile benefits in terms of increased rainfall.

Whether the Chinese will be more successful is doubtful, but it will be virtually impossible to prove that any emergency action actually causes the rainfall.

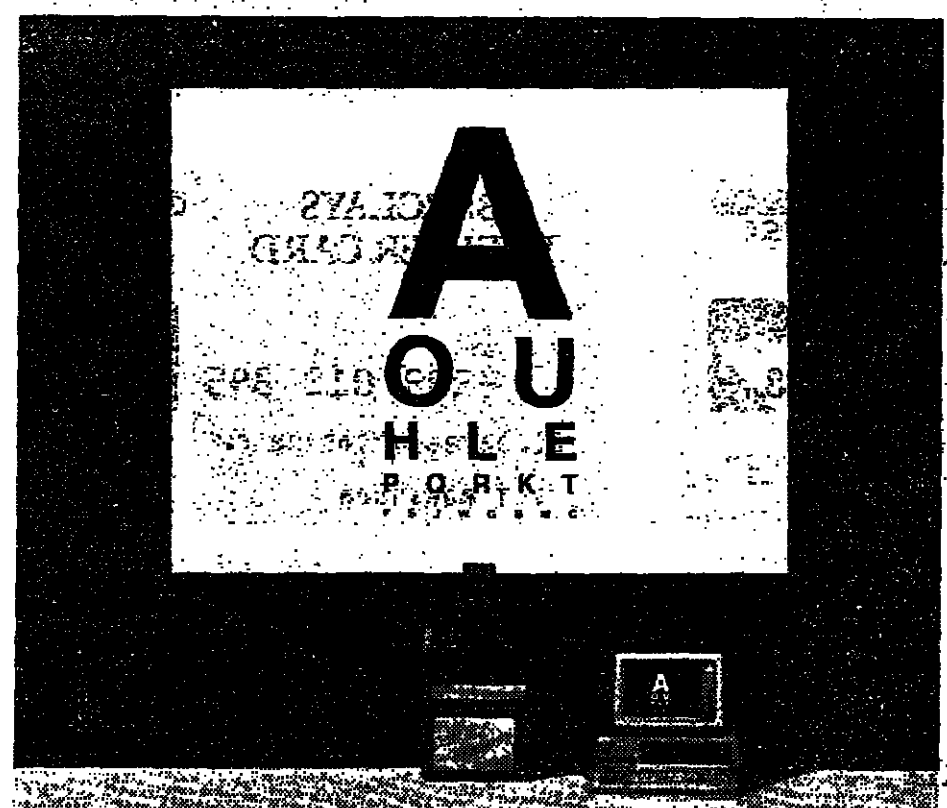
W. J. Burroughs  
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A missile that can think for itself, analyse target possibilities, seek them out amid the battlefield clutter, and then home in and destroy them: is the sort of weapon that military men have been dreaming of for decades.

Today, intelligent weapon systems are no longer on the drawing boards. They have entered the arena as the stars of a new concept in Nato battlefield strategy aimed at countering the huge conventional forces of the Warsaw Pact countries, without having to resort to nuclear weapons.

The USSR has nearly 900,000 scientists and engineers advancing military technologies, plus a further 20,000 agents from the KGB and the military, espionage service, the GRU, who are being used to acquire Western technology through spying, theft and illegal deals.

To combat this, the United States and its Nato allies decided, at a meeting in Bonn in 1982, to work together on conventional weapon systems that would exploit the West's technological superiority.

Dependence on "dumb" weapons—bombs, shells and missiles that had to be launched at specific targets and which relied on the firing skills of the soldier or fighter pilot—was to be switched to "smart" weapons which could find their targets on their own. Launch crews would merely aim in the general direction of the target, guided by a surveillance drone, a remote-controlled aircraft close to the enemy, and "fire" and "forget".

Since that decision was taken, a whole range of collaborative European research and development programmes have been agreed. Some are already moving out of the laboratories and into initial production. If they work, and if the West can afford them, it could mean that the Warsaw Pact—which has always been its battle strategy—on achieving rapid numerical superiority at selected points of contact, would be confronted by armies of smart weapons, capable of destroying Red Army tanks with deadly accuracy.

The weapon detects specific

types and levels of heat and sound, as well as electronic signals such as radar, and analyses them with its own tiny computer. Recognizing the tank "signature", it then launches the missile towards its target.

Nato's concept of the conventional battlefield of the future centres on three major technologies: advanced sensors to locate enemy units, smart weapons to destroy them and an elaborate electronic command system to coordinate the battle.

In Britain, Thorn EMI Electronics is working on a Terminal Guidance Warhead (TGW) for the highly successful multinational, deep-strike, Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS). The MLRS,

Even now the Russians are working hard at counter-measures, such as camouflage and jamming

which has a range of nearly 19 miles, is already in service with the US army, armed with an unguided anti-tank warhead. It is also being purchased for the British army, although the smart version will not be available until the early 1990s.

The TGW is launched by an inflated gas-bag system that forces it out under great pressure. Each warhead contains terminally-guided submunitions (TGS) with millimetre-wave radar seekers that independently locate armoured targets.

Every MLRS launcher has 12 rockets, each containing six submunitions. If the guidance system works, each launch could destroy 72 Soviet tanks.

The smart warheads will be programmed with the most up-to-date intelligence, including information supplied by Phoenix, a surveillance drone which will survey

an area up to about 30 miles on the other side of the front line. Phoenix, which is being developed by GEC Avionics and Flight Refuelling, will have a "limited" "stealth" capability to evade and fool enemy radar.

High-altitude surveillance will be crucial for a smart-weapon tank battle. The Americans are developing a Joint Surveillance and Target Attack Radar System (JSTARS), which would send data to fighter aircraft as well as artillery and missile batteries on the ground.

In the US, the first generation of "smartish" weapons is already in service. On the ground, they are the Copperhead laser-guided artillery shell and the TOW anti-tank missile, which is stored to the target by electronic signals sent from the gunner's sight over a rapidly retracting wire cable.

In the air, they include the 2,000lb Paveway 2 laser-guided bomb and the high-speed anti-radar air-to-surface missile: Harm, both of which were used in anger for the first time during the bombing raid on Libya in April last year.

A much smarter version of Harm, nicknamed "Son of Harm", is being developed in the US. Called Tacit Rainbow, it will lurk in mid-air and attack enemy surface-to-air missile sites when their radar is switched on.

The potential of smart weapons, however, has to be put into context. They are prohibitively expensive and even now the Russians are working hard at counter-measures, such as camouflage, electronic decoys and jamming systems. They are developing "radio frequency" (RF) weapons which could send electro-magnetic pulses to burn out silicon integrated circuits in the advanced weaponry. As one senior US officer commented: "For any smart solution, there's a smart counter."

Michael Evans

First Fleet

Dr Jonathan King's *The First Fleet: The convict voyage that sealed Australia* (Spectrum, May 13) is published by Secker & Warburg.

## CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1258

ACROSS

- Thump (6)
- Idiosyncrasy (6)
- Arguments (4)
- Local transportation (6)
- Circus bird (4)
- Sorcerer (5)
- Sovereign's address (6)
- Outcasts (5)
- Restrain (7)
- Second time (6)
- Smudge (4)
- Service organization (6)
- Have as consequence (6)

DOWN

- Venerate (7)
- Take down (5)
- Slit course (5)
- US President 1974-77 (4)
- Prejudice (7)
- Soil (5)
- Bring on oneself (5)
- Value (6)
- Impelling force (7)
- True, actual (7)
- 5 American animal (5)
- Alcove (5)
- Model maker's wood (5)
- Remain (4)

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## Ivory towers plc

Every week, a new computer company is opened in Cambridge, where the dusty halls of academia are giving way to the onslaught of hi-tech research centres and big business thinking. Tomorrow, *The Times* visits the "fastest growing region in the country", where a PhD can be the key to a fortune made overnight.

In search of the other Greece Islands off the tourist track

The songs of a white Zulu Is Johnny Clegg bound for glory?

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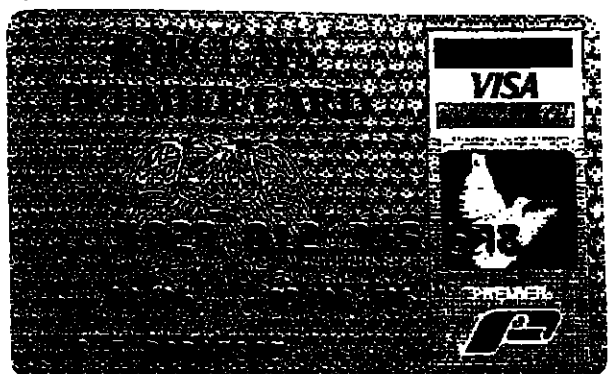
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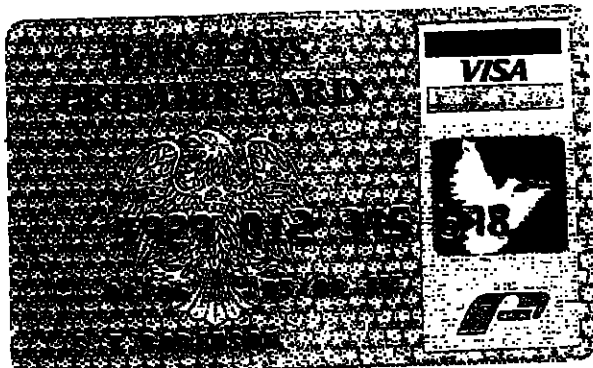
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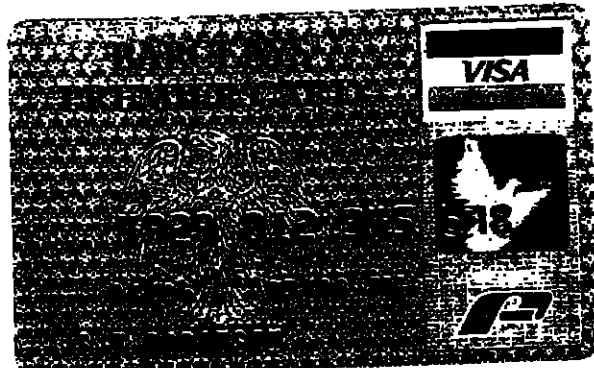
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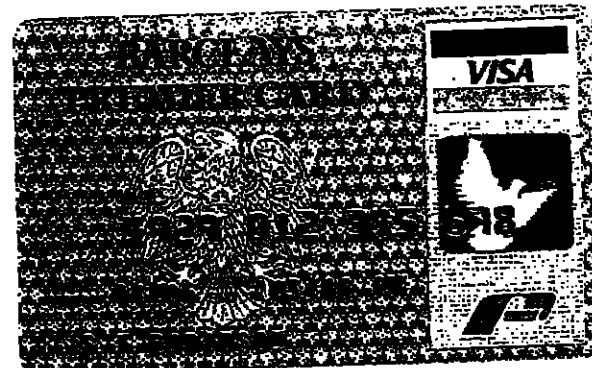
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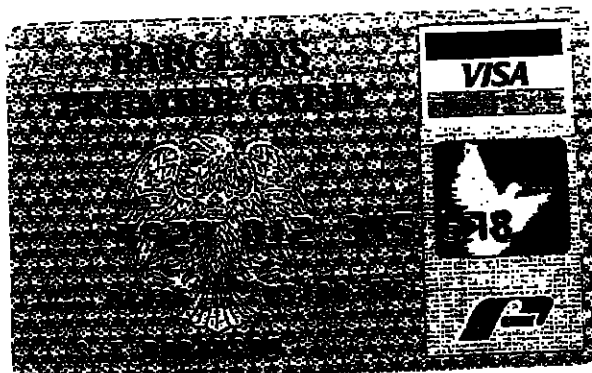
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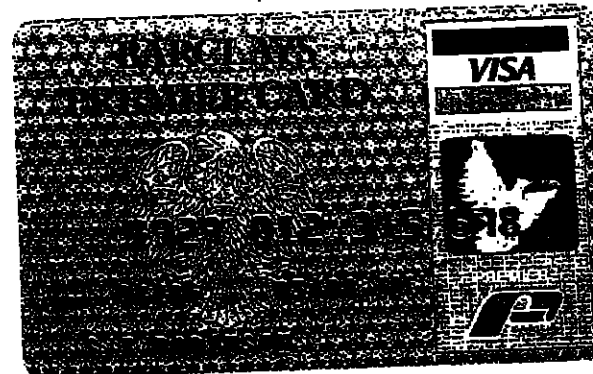
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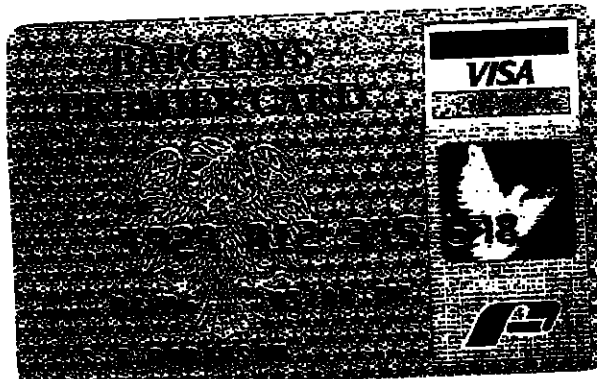
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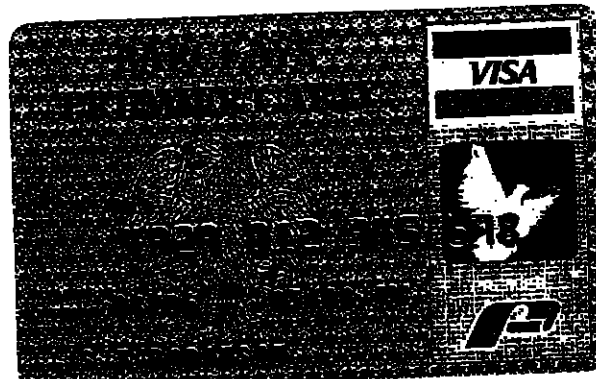
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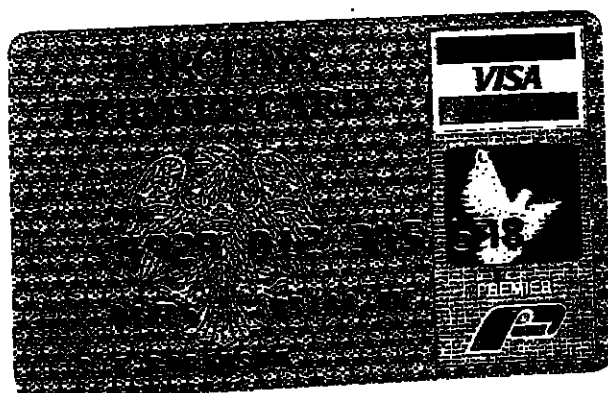
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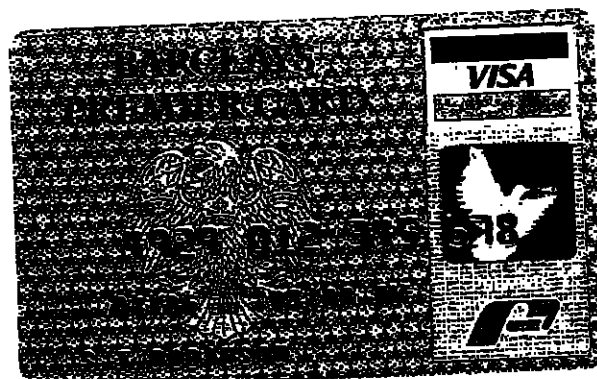
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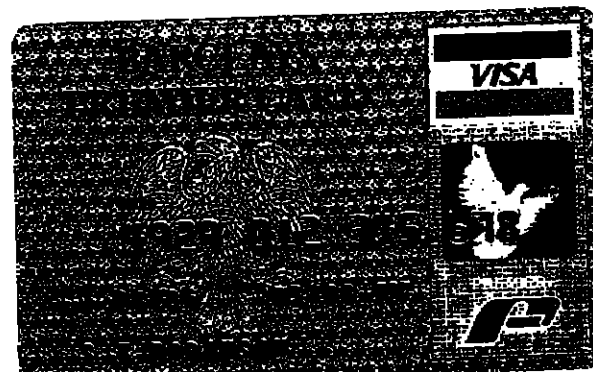
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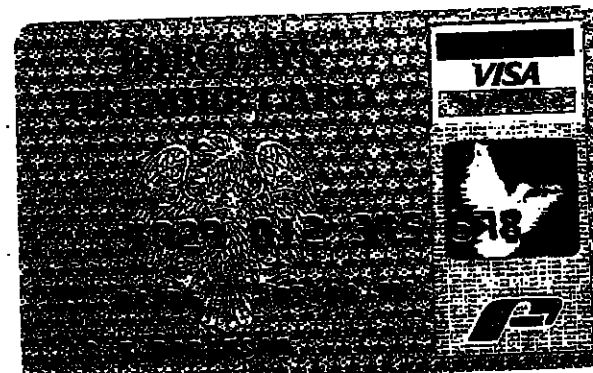
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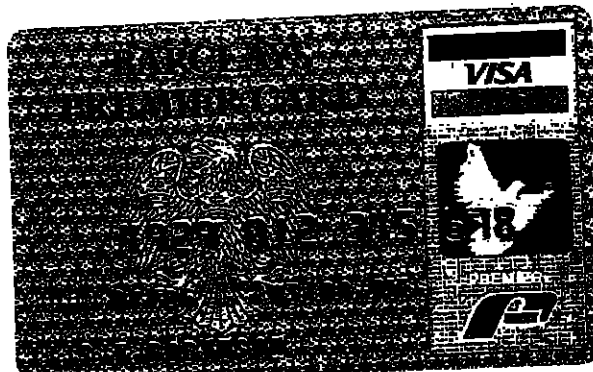
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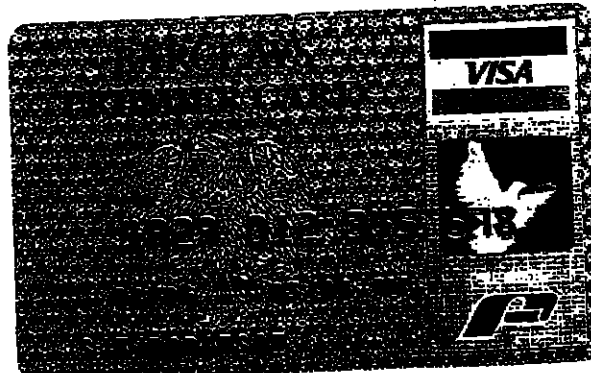
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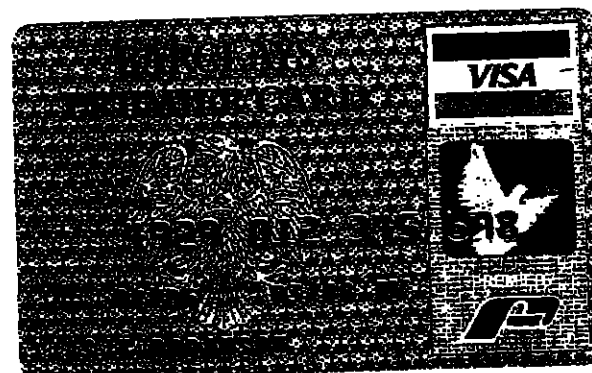
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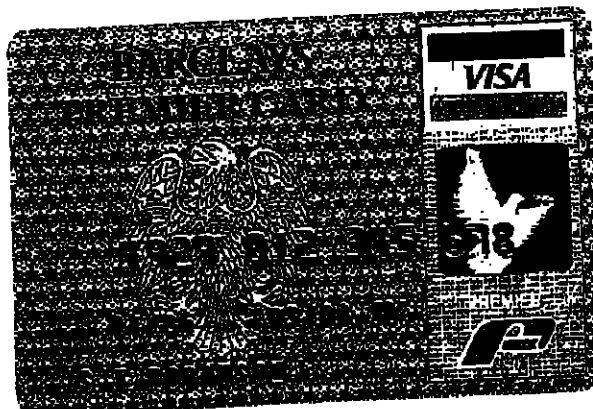
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## THE TIMES DIARY

### Doomsday doomed

Harold Wilson made plans to grant Northern Ireland dominion status. It will be revealed later this month. He drafted the scheme, dubbed the "Doomsday Scenario", in May 1974, shortly after forming his minority government. Under it, though, Ulstermen would remain subjects of the Queen, government would go to a new constitutional authority. Minority rights would be constitutionally protected. British financial support would taper off over five years, and the British military presence would progressively be reduced. There would, however, be a veto on further constitutional change for some years. Detailing the plan for the first time in his forthcoming book *Prime Minister*, Lord Donoghue, then Wilson's policy adviser, writes: "It was a bold and imaginative, if risky, proposal. Mr Wilson seemed almost afraid of its implications and apart from discussing it with Joe Haines and myself, restricted its circulation to only a few very senior officials." The scheme, he goes on, was finally scuppered by the 1974 Protestant strikes.

### Monday's chide

Has Harvey Proctor's amazing ability to hang on to office against all the odds finally been undermined? The MP for Billericay, who faces gross indecency charges and is due in court next Wednesday, has failed to win re-election to the executive council of the right-wing Monday Club. Proctor, who had been a member of its ruling council for four years, polled only 104 votes, ending up seventh out of eight candidates. The news has come as a blow to his supporters in Essex, who will attend his re-election meeting on Saturday. Frank Mallon, chairman of a local ward party, told me: "I am a member of a Monday club and this news comes as a surprise to me." He insisted, however, that Saturday's meeting would be a formality.

● The Liberal Party loses its national press officer as soon as the election campaign ends. Jim Dunsday, who has answered press calls day and night for two years, has accepted the post of BBC press officer in Newcastle.

### Broadminded

Glasgow Tory candidate Janet Girsman won applause at the party's Perth conference yesterday for her plan to reduce the prison population: reintroduce capital punishment and repatriate "foreign" offenders. She was wise, perhaps, not to mention another pet policy: legalizing brothels. Nor, I suspect, would her audience have been impressed by her choice of employer. She is political correspondent for the pin-up-on-every-page *Sunday Sport*.

BARRY FANTONI



"At least you'll feel at home not making sense of the lyrics"

### Who's true

The Conservative's 1987 Campaign Guide provides intriguing raw material for us Tory Kremlinologists. The guide, designed to provide electoral ammunition by listing quotations from, and achievements by, the party's leading lights, this year has no entry for either Ted Heath or Michael Heseltine. In the 1983 guide Heath was mentioned once and Heseltine no fewer than 11 times. Leon Brittan, although also a Cabinet exile, boasts five entries, two more than last time. By listing the more nefarious activities of the party's opponents, the guide provides a clue as to current Tory demonology. Significantly Tony Benn has only half as many entries as last time, and the first name in the index is now Diane Abbott rather than Gerry Adams.

### Habitat

As British Telecom endeavours to put the customer first, photographer Jeremy Jennings awards the now privatized industry full marks for effort, but rather less for execution. Yesterday, BT followed up its emergency installation of a new telephone line at his Sussex home with a call asking whether he was happy with the way it had dealt with the fault. After answering a few initial questions, Jennings interrupted to explain why the new line was needed: early on Easter Sunday, his four-year-old daughter Harriet had set fire to the kitchen, gutting the phone system. "Oh I see," replied the BT lady, swiftly returning to her sheet of prepared questions. "And have you had occasion to complain about the same fault in the past?"

PHS

# Win over the white sections

by Joseph Amamoo

I must first declare an interest in the issue of black sections. I am an African of impeccable black origin and ancestry, and therefore aware that the black community in this country suffers from acts of racism, direct and indirect, in various forms. But I believe the best approach to the problem is not the establishment of separate "black sections" in the national political parties, which would lead to the growth and perpetuation of special black interest groups throughout society generally.

This would not benefit black people because they constitute so small a proportion of the population that they could not realize any objectives or programmes, however laudable, without the assent or support of the white majority.

Currently it is estimated that non-whites constitute around 5 per cent of a population of 56 million. It is pretty obvious that this 5 per cent could not under normal circumstances effect or successfully implement any social or economic policy or programme without the support of a good proportion of the other 95 per cent. Furthermore, the 5 per cent non-whites are not concentrated in one area, borough or constituency but are spread

around the country, mainly in the inner areas of London, Liverpool, Manchester, Bradford and other towns and cities. No parliamentary candidate, of any political party, could therefore win on the strength of black votes alone, not even in the London borough of Brent, where 46 per cent are black, the highest proportion in the country. In any case, how does the aspiring black candidate become the official party candidate without the votes of the whites in the relevant candidate selection committee?

The problems which black people now face are similar to those of British Jews in the 1920s and 1930s. There are thought to be about 500,000 Jews, roughly 1 per cent of the population; yet 30 MPs are of the Jewish faith.

Statistically, if they were in Parliament only as "Jewish MPs", elected by the combined Jewish vote and representing primarily Jewish interests, then there should not be 30 but no more than six or seven.

It is by putting themselves forward, first and foremost, as British citizens, worthy to be

selected as candidates and to be voted for as prospective MPs, that Jews have won the support of the non-Jewish majority. Naturally, as MPs, they have been able to help many people, Jews and non-Jews, with their problems. There lies a lesson for the black community in this country.

The strategy to adopt is not to issue strident anti-white rhetoric but, through sober argument, to appeal to reason and use persuasion to get the 95 per cent of the population who are white to see and appreciate the legitimate concerns of the black people and adopt them as their own; and then, having done so, to use their overwhelming numerical strength at local government and parliamentary level to bring about changes in society which would ameliorate the conditions of black people.

In other words, the objectives of black people are best achieved by so packaging and presenting them that they are at best controversial with those of the vast majority of the non-black people or, at worst, acceptable to them.

In the United States, where

blacks form about 12 per cent of the population, the implementation of such a far-sighted, mature policy has led to the victory of black candidates over white for positions of mayor, governor and other high public offices.

The vulnerable social and political position of blacks in this country is no different from that of whites in Africa, where all black people originate. Except in South Africa, where the white minority has always held power and refuses to cede it, in no African, Caribbean or Asian country can the few white residents expect, reasonably, to advance their political or socio-economic situations, or objectives without the support or acquiescence of the local majority.

Finally, without the resources of mounting a nationwide poll on this subject, I have nevertheless conducted a simple, crude poll by talking about the issue with as many black people as possible in and around London, and trying to assess their views. The results of these interviews have convinced me that the vast majority of black people are not in favour of "black sections".

The author, formerly editor of the Ghanaian Times, is a community development officer for Hackney.

## New boy Michael Fallon writes an end-of-term report on the Commons

It is a club, of course. Thousands applied for membership in 1983 but only 650 were admitted, some after years of trying. To be an MP is an exclusive and extraordinary privilege.

Since I won Darlington for the Conservatives in 1983 I have had the use of a fine library and hospitable refreshment rooms and the pleasure of sharing an office with quite the nicest politician of any party. Jeremy Hanley, MP for Richmond, I recall debates in committee with fair-minded opponents such as Ian Mikardo, Peter Snape and the late David Penhaligon. I think I recall initiating debates on subjects such as self-employment and the North-east at hours like two or three in the morning.

The Commons is a surprisingly familiar place. Backbenchers can mingle freely with ministers, pursuing constituency points in the division lobby or smoking room. The voting system ensures that Cabinet ministers are in the building late each night, no longer cocooned by their civil servants. And in what other parliament could one find the prime minister queuing alongside in the cafeteria?

And yet some are less equal than others. Northern and Scottish members have much further to travel: we like to be away by Thursday evening or early Friday morning, not returning until late on Monday. Visiting Darlington midweek takes out an entire day.

The other difference is not between the parties as much as between those with safe seats and those without. "Lifers" from opposing sides can drink together and pair together, but those in marginal seats, with all the job security of a football manager, must always have one eye on the voter.

What have we achieved, sitting here and legislating? I suspect historians will come to dub this the privatization Parliament. In four years, ownership has been transferred from the state to individuals on a scale that we neither planned back in opposition nor anticipated even in 1983. And no constituency has been unaffected: a thousand Darlington families now own their council house (and have an asset rather than a rent-book to hand on to their children); nearly 10,000 now hold shares.

For a Conservative backbencher in the North-east there is a paradox here. Ninety per cent of my casework has concerned grants, housing and benefits. The region's economy is dominated by central and local government; its MPs are well-used conduits for public spending.

Regional policy, for example, began in County Durham in 1934, after a series of moving articles in *The Times*. "Places with no Future." Fifty years on, with the highest unemployment and lowest personal income, 98 per cent of our region has "assisted area" status and grants remain a way of life for our industrial culture.

Almost 40 per cent of our housing is public, yet my weekly "surgery" is full of dissatisfied

The announcement yesterday that the government is to provide London hospitals with an extra £1.5 million to enable them to continue treating Aids patients with the drug AZT—at an average cost of £5,400 per patient—prompts the question what will be the long-term cost of the disease for the health service.

The truth is that when a new disease first appears, nobody can be certain how the disease will affect individuals or the community, or what the cost will be in terms of either life or cash.

Experts have hidden their ignorance behind the oft-repeated preface "there is no evidence that". A distinguished wartime general said that if he had allowed his troops to advance into fiercely-held enemy territory with catastrophic results, and later defended his action with the excuse that there was no evidence when they started that resistance would be met, he would have been court-martialled.

He did not understand why civilian civil servants fighting an equally deadly war should be treated differently.

The cost of the government's present campaign is difficult to estimate as nobody knows how many patients will develop the disease, how many people have been infected by the virus, or how



## A good four years but could still do better

tenants. More than a quarter of Darlington's waiting list comprises people already in council houses who want transfers to other council houses. Young girls leaving home become pregnant to jump the queue.

Too many are thus physically trapped on poorly maintained estates hundreds of miles from where the work is and where their skills are needed. Further south, thousands of council houses are empty, thousands more hard to let; my constituents cannot apply. Parliament has not faced up to the full horror of the immobility that its own legislation has created.

The same applies to benefits. Before I was elected, I knew the system was complex. But I had no idea of the extent to which it penalises those it is designed to help. A girl aged 17, living with a father on housing benefit, works 15 hours a week and is only £1.54 better off than if she were not working at all.

In this parliament the social security system has been thoroughly reviewed but just as thoroughly preserved. Spending goes on rising but its recipients are no better off. Poverty here is state-induced, a Giro culture that discourages work and depresses income.

Well-paid ministers with landed or City backgrounds cannot understand the huge difference between receiving benefit and

paying even 27 per cent tax. If they did, they would not tolerate the appalling paternalism of a system which restricts the number of hours that people who want to work can work. Alone of many schemes since 1983, the enterprise allowance has proved a winner here, cutting straight through the tax and benefit trap with dramatic results.

In the next parliament we must drop more such ladders into the sub-culture and help free those who remain outsiders in our economy and our society: 3 million unemployed, 5 million on supplementary benefit, 6 million in public housing—these vast client-states await radical changes in welfare legislation. Until then, MPs must go on doing this kind of casework and ministers must remain responsible for the most detailed actions and decisions of their local agencies.

After four years inside the system, therefore, the conventional wisdom does not convince me. There is too much accountability and there are too many ministers. Ten years after the peak of the provision-state and its apparatus of para-government, ministers are still answering for matters over which they have no control. Nor should have. Eight ministers answer for energy and transport alone, departments whose responsibilities have been halved by privatization.

More insidious is the extent to which relatively small constituencies help reinforce producer interest against those of the consumer. In debates on coal, textiles and steel, where employment is highly concentrated, for example, the consumer, even the commercial consumer, has no spokesman because Mr Speaker has to accommodate those with "genuine" constituency interests. The House of Commons is severely inhibited from exploring the costs of protection and challenging the weight of producer associations and their sponsoring departments.

But I carp too much. All of us leaving to fight again would love to return. Tonight we part. For some, *adieu*; for others, perhaps, *adieu* *te saluamus*. The voters will decide.

laboratory Service, £1 million for the additional cost involved in the heat treatment of Factor VIII, £2 million to the Blood Transfusion Service and several lesser sums to other bodies.

The likely cost of treatment has been based on an assumption that early predictions of the percentage of HIV positive patients who are expected to develop Aids will not be higher than 10 or 20 per cent. Overseas figures support the view that this optimism is misplaced. The cost will therefore be proportionally higher.

The Aids epidemic is potentially devastating but at the moment the organism, compared to other viruses, is frail, easily destroyed outside the human body and difficult to spread except through sexual intercourse or contaminated blood.

But if its virulence was to increase, or if it becomes more difficult to destroy, so that low concentrations of the virus present in other body fluids become infectious, or even if in its present form it is spread to other heterosexual risk groups, the annual bill to the DHSS would look like petty cash.

Next year the virus for one reason or another is likely to cost the state more than £63 million—up to £24 million for the care of patients, £4 million for additional facilities in genito-urinary medical clinics, £14 million for public education, a total of £17 million to the Medical Research Council, £1.25 million to the Public Health

And perhaps there are too many MPs. It is difficult to convince one's constituents that the average backbencher will now be called only four times a year in main debates. Question-time is a lottery: we stay up all night just to compete for the chance to present a bill. And we lobby shamelessly on takeovers and grants, issues on which the politician does not necessarily take a longer or wider view than the markets.

Even if there are not too many of us, we do have fewer constituents than other parliamentarians. Against our average 86,000, a French deputy has 150,000 and a US congressman 544,000. The difference is significant because at Westminster it puts a premium on job protection and the interest of industry.

A threat to a single factory or plant comes right to the floor of the House: ministers accept responsibility and prepare a reply. Indeed the Prime Minister will receive any MP faced with the loss of upwards of 500 jobs. But the new jobs which are now being created or awaiting creation are less visible, scattered in tiny units across the constituency.

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T.E. Utley

## IRA shadow over the poll

Oddly enough, there is one respect in which the affairs of Northern Ireland, to be excluded by common consent from the British election campaign, are quietly dominating that exercise. I suspect that the precautions now being taken for the safety of British politicians, as they trundle round the country talking about everything except Ulster, are more elaborate than ever before. At any rate, I hope they are.

One does not have to be in an army or the victim of a particularly macabre imagination to realize that a successful IRA attack on one or more eminent participants in the election campaign would have an enormous appeal to the godfathers of republicanism in Ulster. They would not be deterred, as the Brighton bombing attempt shows, by fears of the ferocious reaction which such an event might provoke. They have come to believe that the British people are fundamentally unprovokable in that when you try to kill their leaders the stock reaction of the political establishment, having duly deplored the atrocity, is to say that we must not act under the influence of panic or anger.

What constitutes the best protection of the British political establishment during the next few weeks is the immense efficiency of our police forces and, above all, the fact that there are few very safe havens in this country from which Irish terrorists can plot their crimes and in which they can take refuge when their crimes have been committed.

In other respects, Irish terrorists in Britain have a few things going for them. The chief of these is that the majority of the British do not believe themselves at present to be subjected to any terrorist challenge. They lack, therefore, a wariness and the vigilance and militant feeling which such a mentality inspires. It is natural and inevitable that this should still be so, for Britons on the mainland have suffered comparatively little from terrorist assaults.

This is not so, of course, in Ulster, as a recent experience of mine vividly illustrates. Last weekend I went to the province to address a meeting of the Friends of the Union, in the company of my much more distinguished colleagues in that movement, Ian Gow, James Molyneux and John Biggs-Davison. We met in the civic centre at Craigavon. Before a solid, middle-class, moderate Unionist audience, we rehearsed the argument for preserving the union, modifying the Anglo-Irish agreement and refraining from the negative policies which so irritate the British. We had said it all before. They had heard it all before, and they listened with respect and only the slightest evidence of boredom.

Then, just as the meeting was about to end, a message was handed to our chairman and read out by him. It was to the effect that

however... Henry Stanhope

## How to get my giddy vote

I am a floating voter. That is a statement of fact, not a boast or admission of guilt. I drift between the parties in the eddying currents of our political life and times like flotsam, or in the manner of a soldier of fortune during the Thirty Years War.

I was converted at an early age after the '45 campaign, in which Haileybury thrashed Harrow by what might be described as an innings and 145 runs.

In those days there were no opinion polls, or if there were the pollsters kept pretty quiet about them, as if they were, well... a little underhand, like cheating. Nowadays I can't think why David Butler to tell her whom to ask to form a government. But in 1945 you had to wait until people had actually voted before you could tell who had won.

I mention this only to explain the sense of national shock upon hearing that Mr Attlee had done so. Had Miss Marple turned round in the final scene of an Agatha Christie and announced that she had strangled the vicar herself, she could hardly have amazed us more successfully. My grandmother, ashen-faced, retired to her room with the bottle of sal volatile while I awaited, in some awe, the arrival of the Bolsheviks at the front door.

Nothing changed, however, and after a while it became fairly clear that nothing very much was going to. Sweets were still rationed, you couldn't yet buy bananas and, apart from the fact that we were preparing to fight the Russians instead of the Germans, life seemed pretty much the same as it had always been—a succession of crises which the country managed to stumble over somehow.

The trains had been nationalized, but they more or less kept on running. They didn't actually do so on time, but short of resurrections Mussolini there didn't seem to be much anyone could do about that. It took a little while to sort out Mr Bevin from Mr Bevan (the former wore horn-rimmed spectacles) and on a dark night you might just have mistaken the British prime minister for Joseph Stalin (but it would have to be a very dark one indeed).

It thus became clear to me quite young that whatever way you

an attack had just been made on the police station at Loughgall and that (sic) "six policemen had been murdered". None of us thought to transcribe it, or suspect an error in transcription. We were all used to that kind of atrocity; it called for a gesture of respect for the dead, a prompt suspension of the meeting and a particularly solemn, and therefore outstandingly tuneless rendering of the National Anthem. Then, as we broke up and chatted in grim voices, the true version of the event came through. It was not six policemen but eight terrorists who had been killed (we had heard nothing yet about the innocent passers-by).

Here then, it seemed to us, was an occasion for rejoicing, not mourning. It seemed to have been a splendid exercise and a brilliant victory for the intelligence services. Instead of being arrested en route and sent down for a few years for belonging to the IRA and carrying arms, the enemy had been trapped, beautifully and brilliantly, caught in the very act and wiped out. One felt the sacred kind of elevation that men of my age did when listening to the tally of German bombers shot down in the Battle of Britain.

You will say that all this shows how fighting a terrorist war corrupts the defenders of law and order. Did not every one of these terrorists have a mother? Were they not courageous though misguided men? Should we not think of the extent to which they were simply the products of an unhappy history? All this is true, and there will be a time and place for recording it but a people confronted by a direct terrorist challenge must not allow its instinct of self-defence to be paralysed by such meditations. Warfare even against terrorists should be confined within the limits of propriety: we should not shoot prisoners as the IRA does, but we are under no obligation to take special pains to diminish enemy casualties.

As the book of Ecclesiastes tells us, there is "a time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace." Inducing us to get these times mixed up is one of the deadliest weapons in the armoury of terrorism, designed as it is to atrophy our instinct for self-preservation. A final warning to the IRA: any attempt seriously to disrupt our affairs in the next three weeks will revive that flagging instinct in the British people in the most conspicuous manner.

The response of the Unionist community in Ulster to IRA terrorism is not the result of some Irish cultural oddity; it is the result of Ulster's having been subjected to years of sustained and ruthless attack. It is the characteristic response of the British when under fire. The difference is simply that the mainland British have not yet been under serious IRA fire and their patriotism and imagination does not yet extend, unhappily, to a proper sympathy with the feelings of loyal Ulstermen.

however... Henry Stanhope

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هكذا من الأصل





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## The issues: education

### REFORM AT LAST

Instead of an education system for the 21st century, Britain has something that was cobbled together in the 1960s, found wanting in the 1970s and is still awaiting reform in the 1980s. Nearly 40 per cent of children leave school after 11 years of full-time education with little or nothing to show for it.

Equally shaming should be the international comparisons which suggest that 16-year-olds in Britain lag a full two years behind their opposite numbers in Germany and Japan. Shame is not much in evidence. Only the other day the Chief Education Officer of Cambridgeshire claimed in a letter to *The Times* that our public education service had a "superb track record".

That is not the view of business. It sometimes seems as if the CBI, the Institute of Directors and the British Institute of Management are the only ones who understand what has been happening. Their trenchant views on the abilities of school-leavers constitute a comprehensive indictment of decades of educational waffle and experimentation.

So too does industry's experience of how rapidly a good Youth Training Scheme can transform the most unpromising material. But do young people really have to wait until they have left school before someone finds a way of teaching them basic English and mathematics? The nation cannot afford such an absurdity. Nor can it afford a higher education system which excludes 85 per cent of the age group and, in the universities' case, concentrates elaborate

resources on a tiny, gilded seven per cent?

This is not a critique with which any of the parties would particularly quarrel. Measures to raise standards in schools, improve training and widen access to higher education will feature in all their manifestos. The difference is that while Conservative proposals are plainly radical (if late in the day), the Alliance and Labour would tinker with what exists while spending a lot more money on it.

Education issues have never been more fundamental or the choice more stark. The question which the Tories have finally and effectively posed is who should run the system?

Should schools in the state sector continue to be the responsibility of local education authorities or should that responsibility be divided between the Department of Education and Science and the schools themselves? Should the traditional autonomy of the universities be respected or should they, with the polytechnics, be required to serve the nation's interests before any other?

The questions have not been placed on the agenda by the sinister ambitions of a power-hungry Government. They have been put there by a general conviction that not enough young people are being educated as well as they should be and that the system as it is organized at present has been unconsciously slow to recognize it, much less to correct it. Many of those responsible for running the worst schools and the weakest universities refuse even to acknowledge that anything is amiss — anything, that is, that cannot

be put right by limitless injections of public funds.

The achievements of our main industrial competitors provide the clearest evidence that standards have not been rising fast enough in schools. But the comparison only confirms parents' instinctive feelings (regularly confirmed by Her Majesty's Inspectors of education) that too many teachers require too little of their pupils and offer them too little as well.

Yet throughout the decade in which those feelings grew, the professionals poured scorn on anyone who dared voice them. Teachers, academics, administrators and councillors conspired to ensure that any concern about standards was automatically dismissed as the disreputable obsession of a right-wing fringe. Similarly, the university establishment succeeded in putting about the notion that because some institutions did a few things rather well, the whole system was above adverse criticism and the State's only role was to pay more and more for it.

Are these then the hands into which responsibility for reforming education should be placed? Or is it time, as the Government's plans suggest, for the producers' concerns to be subordinated to those of the consumers?

Will widening parents' choice and extending their influence significantly improve schools? Will requiring universities and polytechnics to enter into funding contracts for specific services lead to greater efficiency and relevance? If ever there were a time for radical solutions, it is now.

### MORE ISLAND TROUBLE

Fiji yesterday joined the growing number of island communities in which ethnic and cultural divisions have led to the overthrow of democracy and a threat to the rule of law. That in itself is regrettable and one's instinctive reaction must be in support of the Governor-General, Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau, upon whom great responsibility now lies.

The coup, in which Lt-Col. Sitiveni Rabuka of the Royal Fiji Military Forces arrested the recently elected government and suspended the constitution, would have seemed quite unthinkable 12 months ago. Britain, mother of parliaments, had bequeathed to it a democratic machinery which had functioned efficiently since independence in 1970. Fiji, surrounded by tiny, emerging countries in the South Pacific, was still setting a fine example of stability and calm.

A parliamentary system was not, however, the only bequest from its former colonial overlords. The other was a growing population of ethnic Indians, imported by Britain during the 19th century to work in the sugar plantations. Their descendants now make up 49 per cent of the population, slightly more than the indigenous Melanesians, and control much of the industry and commerce.

The seeds of conflict be-

tween these Indians and the land-owning Melanesians, who had ruled Fiji since independence, have been nurtured since 1984 when the government embittered the Indian-dominated trade unions by imposing a wage freeze and other austerity measures, following a slump in its sugar export earnings.

Fiji has also been exposed to shifting interests and international pressures. Soviet cruise liners (loaded mainly with Australasian holiday-makers and Japanese honeymooners) have been welcome callers at Suva. There has been growing resentment against the French, who have continued to carry out nuclear tests in the Pacific, and a sympathy with the anti-nuclear policies of other regional powers — most notably New Zealand.

The pro-Western government of the Oxford-educated Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, had been in power for so long that it was open to accusations of complacency. Last year the government was able to announce an improvement in the Fiji economy. But Fiji was already ripe for a change.

The result was last month's election in which Ratu Mara fell from power — to be replaced by a coalition of the Fiji Labour Party and the Indian-led National Federation Party, under Dr Timoci

Bavadra, a politically inexperienced physician.

Dr Bavadra had declared his government to be dedicated to improving the lot of the poor and unemployed and, in foreign affairs, to leading Fiji away from its instinctive pro-Western stance towards a non-aligned position. One of the first policy declarations by the new government had been one of support for the nuclear-free policies of New Zealand.

It was to counter such policies, and to defuse the riots and demonstrations which had followed the election, that yesterday's coup allegedly took place. But, as the government had hardly had time to look around, it is hard to understand such depth of feeling. Much remained unclear last night, but it seemed more likely that political intrigue and simmering ethnic discontent lay mainly behind it.

The overthrow of a professionally non-aligned government, presumably in favour of pro-Western forces, should in theory be welcome on this side of the world. But the manner of the government's going can hardly be approved. Dr Bavadra and his ministers were the elected representatives of Fiji and their removal by force is most likely to open the way to instability in which everyone's interests could be damaged in the long term.

### March of the trees

From Ms Marion Shoard  
Sir, The Chairman of the Forestry Commission, Sir David Montgomery, justifies the expansion of forestry by asserting (May 7) that Britain has a competitive advantage in growing trees. Yet the march of the forests over our hills is being fuelled by an array of grants and tax concessions which even our farmers might envy.

If conditions for forestry are so ideal, perhaps the Forestry Commission will accept that these incentives can now be withdrawn forthwith. Those of us who object to seeing our countryside buried under grim, silent conifers would prefer not to have to pay for the privilege.

Even better, we should like to see the interests of sections of the community other than foresters given weight before more of our countryside disappears under needle and cone. However suitable Britain may be for growing trees, we ought to consider carefully what else we want from our countryside before we allow it to be turned into a matchstick factory.  
Yours faithfully,  
MARION SHOARD,  
The Polytechnic of Central London,  
Faculty of the Environment,  
35 Marylebone Road, NW1,  
May 11.

### Succour for violence

From Mr T. M. Unwin  
Sir, It has long puzzled me why, in Northern Ireland, a Sinn Féin MP can with impunity publicly denounce the forces of law and order who kill terrorists in self-defence, at the same time publicly supporting and indeed glorifying the dead would-be murderers; or how at funerals of these murderers their supporters can publicly appear in masks as self-confessed members of an illegal terrorist organization and not be arrested. There are many such instances.

I know that in practice it is not always possible to enforce the law

### Legal negligence

From Mr Robin Michaelson  
Sir, Your "Legal Affairs" Correspondent's article on "Negligence: how all could suffer" (April 20) makes several valid points. One way of mitigating the situation and defusing it somewhat is for the various professional groups to ally themselves together and pool their liability insurance.

This can be very efficiently and effectively done by setting up a mutual insurance company (registered in the UK with the Department of Trade and Industry) with the various professional practices as members. By

doing this the professional group concerned actually has some control on the level of premium that has to be charged and can keep a control over claims.

Very large catastrophic claims can effectively be reinsured into the open market and the group operates like all intents and purposes like any licensed insurance company. Such schemes generally provide considerable savings to all taking part.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBIN MICHAELSON,  
The Wyatt Company (UK) Ltd,  
Park Gate,  
21 Tophill Street, SW1,  
May 1.

## Reason, politics and the Bomb

From Mr Frank Allauin  
Sir, Bernard Levin's attack on Martin Amis's powerful book opposing the nuclear bomb did not merit its four columns in *The Times* (May 11).

Mr Levin claims that the Bomb has given us 40 years of peace, a phrase he borrowed from the Prime Minister. But in July, 1914, there were statesmen who similarly claimed — until the following month — that the Allied navies and armies had given the Continent precisely the same period of peace. In any case, 40 years, unfortunately, is only a very short part of human history.

Mr Levin's insulting advice to Mr Amis is that he should "swallow some Kewells". After all, he believes, some people would survive in Australia, Africa, China and South America. Very comforting for the other nations, though not necessarily true for any country.

Your columnist proceeds with an even more audacious claim. He says it was only the presence of the American nuclear weapon that stopped the Red Army from taking over the whole of Europe. He knows full well that the Russians lost 20 million men, women and children from Hitler's invasion.

Naturally the Soviet people hate war as much as we do. Out of the male babies born between 1920 and 1925 only three out of every hundred remained alive 20 years later. Mr Levin and I owe our lives to their sacrifices. Mr Gorbachev has stressed the need to switch resources from warfare preparations to raising living standards in Russia and elsewhere.

The only thing to do about nuclear bombs, Mr Levin continues, is for us to keep ours and to negotiate reduction in their numbers on both sides. Does he agree

## Craftsmen in a business maze

From Captain J. G. P. Elwes  
Sir, Britain's 20,000 craftsmen, full-time or part-time, are confronted with a maze of sources of potential assistance.

One can get guidance from (1) the twelve regional visual arts officers supported by the Arts Council and possibly grant aid; or, if you are especially lucky, a three-year limited subsidy for special cases, which may also come in part from local authorities.

One might get a grant for the conversion of a building from (2) Cosira (Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas) and loans for equipment from the same source (Ministry of Environment).

One could also get a grant for the same building from (3) the Tourist Board; but you get into trouble if you ask for one-third from both, although 50 per cent grants are the national limit.

One can get advice from (4) the small business section of the Department of Trade, which may lead on to export advice from (5) the British Overseas Trade Board and/or (6) the British Council.

If the home market is insufficient for viability or your product is more suitable for the overseas market, further advice could be obtained from (7) the Foreign Office.

If your product is "artistic", advice and registration is available direct from (8) the Craft Council where there is one over-worked man responsible for marketing and exports. However, if it is painting or sculpture, then it is back to (1) the Arts Council.

The best craftsmen or artists are in the main looking for inspiration and the perfection of their ability. Few of them have the added ability to be businessmen, let alone chasing the eight different ministries and quangos and perhaps adding a further one by obtaining a design award and registration from (9) the Design Council.

If you want to establish craftsmen and jobs, as we do, none of the above organisations can advise you as to which craftsman or artist is likely to be economically self-supportive. Could not marketing advice be provided by an efficient commercial wholesale organisation, backed perhaps with start-up grants from the Manpower Services Commission?

Yours sincerely,  
J. G. P. ELWES,  
Elsam Hall,  
Elsam, near Brigg,  
South Humberside,  
May 5.

### Research needs

From the Chairman, Coordinating Council of Area Studies Associations

Sir, The Defence White Paper envisages, as you foresaw (leading article, May 7), a transfer of research funds from defence establishments to civilian technology: it points to the cost of devoting too high a share of research resources to military requirements.

A corresponding, but very much smaller, shift would maintain support for the research which lies behind defence and foreign policy analysis of the developments overseas which determine defence expenditure. This particularly applies to communist countries: reform programmes in the USSR, eastern Europe, China and Vietnam could have profound effects on their societies and on East-West relations.

The Government itself is the largest collector and interpreter of information on external conditions and, since the 1947 Scarborough report, it has acknowledged its responsibilities in

funding the higher education sector to produce area-specialised political analysts, economists, lawyers, geographers, and to generate the complementary independent research which is no less essential than in technology.

This council is acutely concerned at the losses, both through retirement of staff appointed under the 1961 Hayer report (on African, Asian and East European studies) and the 1965 Parry report (on Latin American studies), and through recent migration to American universities of senior specialists. The financial cuts imposed on universities mean that such posts falling vacant are being abolished.

A teaching and research structure of national value and of international repute has been established since the war; it could be maintained for a sum trivial in comparison with the £401million defence research budget.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL KASER (Chairman, Coordinating Council of Area Studies Associations),  
St Antony's College, Oxford,  
May 8.

### Sterilisation risks

From Dr J. O. Drife  
Sir, About 50,000 women are sterilised in England every year, and some of them may have been disturbed by Dr Patrick Gill's statement (May 7) that the operation has long-term harmful physical sequelae.

This question has been investigated by many research studies, some of which have indeed concluded that sterilisation leads to hormonal disturbance or adverse effects on the menstrual cycle. Nevertheless, studies in over 25 countries involving almost 17,000 women, report that most women experience no change in menstruation after sterilisation: of those who do, half experience worsening of menstrual problems and half experience improvement.

The conclusion of the largest and best-designed studies is that sterilisation does not lead to long-

term side effects. For example, researchers from Oxford University and the Family Planning Association observed over 5,000 women for several years and found no increase in the rate of gynaecological disorders in sterilised women.

Dr Gill's assertion that sterilisation can cause autoimmune disorders is based on theoretical concepts unsupported by evidence. He is, of course, entitled to his views on the pros and cons of sterilisation, but I feel it is wrong of him to be so dogmatic when describing the results of medical research.

Yours sincerely,  
JAMES OWEN DRIFE,  
University of Leicester,  
School of Medicine,  
Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology,  
Leicester Royal Infirmary,  
PO Box 65, Leicester.

### Constable bequest

From Dr Selby Whittingham  
Sir, Mr Richard Constable argues (May 7) that the works by John Constable given and bequeathed to the Victoria & Albert Museum in 1888 by his great-great-aunt, the artist's daughter, should be transferred to the Tate Gallery.

The 1944-46 Massey report also recommended that. But the memorandum of the Standing Commission on Museums and Galleries attached to that report argued that

the clearly-expressed intentions of the testators in the case of the Miss Constable and the Vaughan bequests preclude any permanent transfer of these drawings and pictures from the Victoria & Albert Museum...

Should not today's Museums and Galleries Commission be asked to review the whole ques-

tion of the adherence to donors' wishes and the continuing fragmentation of the national collections of British art in London, including those of Constable and Turner?

Yours faithfully,  
SELBY WHITTINGHAM,  
Turner House,  
153 Cromwell Road, SW5.

### Fifth estate?

From Mr Jeremy Sinden  
Sir, A couple of days ago I was walking along Portland Place when I passed a notice advertising "Offices for rent". The advertisers also described themselves as "Soul agents" (sic).

I wonder if any of my fellow readers can shed some light on this novel form of representation?

Yours faithfully,  
JEREMY SINDEN,  
24 Crediton Road, NW10.

### Women in RUC

From the Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary  
Sir, The leading article "Warning women at work" (March 11) contains a number of serious inaccuracies.

There was no finding of guilt against the Royal Ulster Constabulary, no ruling that there had been a misguided attempt to protect women, no condemnation of the other matters mentioned by you. The Royal Ulster Constabulary did not claim that its work was analogous to the armed forces.

The case before the tribunal was part heard, when the parties reached a satisfactory settlement. The claimants accepted that the Chief Constable had taken steps to ensure the application of equal

treatment in recruitment, training and other areas throughout the Force. An advisory committee on equal opportunities proposed by him will advise and make recommendations to me.

The only issue left to be decided by the tribunal was the costs which were to be awarded to the claimants.

Despite the exigencies of the unusual situation prevailing in Northern Ireland, I am determined to uphold the principle of equal treatment, consistent with the findings of the European Court.

Yours faithfully,  
J. C. HERMON,  
Chief Constable,  
Royal Ulster Constabulary,  
Brooklyn, Knock Road,  
Belfast, Northern Ireland.

## ON THIS DAY

MAY 15 1824

Byron's presentation, confided to the Countess of Blessington, that he would die in Greece, was fulfilled. His body, brought back to London but refused burial in Westminster Abbey, was interred in the family vault at Hucknall, near the country seat he had inherited at Newstead, Nottinghamshire.

### DEATH OF LORD BYRON.

A courier arrived in town yesterday morning, with the distressing intelligence of the death of Lord Byron, at Missolonghi, on the 19th of April, after an illness of ten days. A cold, attended with inflammation, was the cause of the fatal result. Lord Byron's letters from Corfu are dated the 27th of April. His Lordship was about to proceed immediately to Zante, where the body had arrived.

Lord Byron had perfectly recovered from his illness in February, which was of quite a different nature from that under which he died.

The following is a translation of the Proclamation which was issued by the Greek Authorities at Missolonghi, to the grief of its inhabitants, who were thus arrested in the celebration of their Easter festivities—

### "PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF GREECE."

"The present days of festivity are converted into days of bitter lamentation for all—

"Lord Noel Byron departed this life to-day, about eleven o'clock in the evening, in consequence of a rheumatic inflammation, which had lasted for ten days.

"During the time of his illness, your general anxiety evinced the profound sorrow that pervaded your hearts. All classes, without distinction of age or sex, oppressed by grief, entirely forgot the days of Easter.

"The death of this illustrious personage is certainly a most calamitous event for all Greece, and still more lamentable for this city, to which he was eminently partial, of which he became a citizen, and of the dangers of which he determined personally to partake when circumstances should require it.

"His munificent donations to this community are before the eyes of every one, and no one amongst us ever ceased, or ever will cease, to consider him, with the purest and most grateful sentiments, our benefactor.

"Until the dispositions of the National Government regarding this most calamitous event be known, by virtue of the decree of the Legislature, No. 314, of date the 15th October,

"It is ordained,  
"1. To-morrow, by sun-rise, thirty-seven minute guns shall be fired from the batteries of this town, equal to the number of years of the deceased personage.

"2. All public offices, including all Courts of Justice, shall be shut for three following days.

"3. All shops, except those for provisions and medicines, shall also be kept shut; and all sorts of musical instruments, all dances customary in these days, all sorts of festivities and merriment in the public taverns, and every other sort of public amusement, shall cease during the above-named period.

"4. A general mourning shall take place for twenty-one days.

"5. Funeral ceremonies shall be performed in all the churches.

"A. M. MORFOTIDIS,  
"GIORGIO PRADII,  
(Secretary.)  
"Missolonghi, 19th April, 1824."

... We know not how many of our countrymen may share the feelings with which this news has affected us. There were individuals more to be approved for moral qualities than Lord BYRON — to be more safely followed, or more tenderly beloved; but there lives no man on earth whose sudden departure from it, under the circumstances in which that nobleman was cut off, appears to us more calculated to impress the mind with profound and unmingled mourning.

Lord BYRON was doomed to pay that price which Nature sometimes charges for stupendous intellect, in the gloom of his imagination, and the intractable energy of his passions. Amazing power, variously directed, was the mark by which he was distinguished far above all his contemporaries. His dominion was the sublime — it was his native home; at intervals he plunged into the lower atmosphere for amusement, but his stay was brief. It was his proper nature to ascend; but on the summit of his elevation, his leading passion was to evince his superiority, by launching his melancholy scorn at mankind...

### In praise of aunts

From Miss Stella Pigrome  
Sir, I think you should give the last word on aunts to Jane Austen. On October 30, 1815, she wrote to her 10-year-old niece, Caroline Austen, whose sister Anna Leroy had recently had her first child:

Now that you are become an Aunt, you are a person of some consequence & must excite great interest whatever you do. I have always maintained the importance of Aunts as much as possible, & I am sure of your doing the same now.

She addressed Caroline as "my dear Sister-Aunt".  
Yours faithfully,  
STELLA PIGROME,  
Round Chimney,  
Playden, Rye, East Sussex.

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## THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Saturday section by a preview of the week ahead. Items for inclusion should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN

## THEATRE

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★ Returns only

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"The Man Who Lit a Cigar Before the Royal Toast" was one of a series of comic depictions of social gaffes penned by H. M. Bateman, the century of whose birth falls this year. "The Man Who..." cartoons ran in *The Tatler* during the 1920s and Bateman was paid up to £200 a drawing, making him the highest-paid cartoonist of his time. Born in Australia, he brought the outsider's sharp eye to English manners and customs. Though he lived until 1970, he was at his peak during the inter-war period, when he chronicled the growing middle-class passion for travel, sport, motorcars and cocktails. He is also credited with

introducing the strip cartoon to Britain, with a series called "The Boy Who Breathed on the Glass at the British Museum" that appeared in 1916. To mark the centenary a selection of his *Tatler* cartoons is published as *The Best of H. M. Bateman* (Bodley Head, £10.95) and two complementary exhibitions are being organized by the Langton Gallery. The first, at the National Theatre (01-928 2033), is devoted to caricatures and strip cartoons; the other, at the Royal Festival Hall (01-928 3002), comprises 200 cartoons. Both exhibitions run Mon-Sat, 10am-11pm and are free, from today until June 28.

**Peter Waymark**

★ **CECILIA WALTON TRIO**: Literate post-bop piano, somewhere between Herbie Hancock and Bill Evans in approach. Cecil, London SW7 (01-877 8611). Mon-Fri 10.30-12.30pm, Sat 10-12pm, free, until May 22.

★ **ORPHEUS IN THE UNDERWORLD**: Gerald Scarfe brings Offenbach's classic to grotesque new life in David's production, largely unchanged in its casting from last season. English National Opera, Coliseum, London WC2 (01-516 1111). 7.30-10.30pm, £2-18.50.

★ **LA BOHEME**: A comparatively mild of the road production by David Freeman, sung in English and conducted by Clive Timms. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-516 1111). 7.30-10.30pm, £2-18.50.

★ **THE SLEEP**: The Brighton Festival, in association with the Glasgow Festival, presents a new minimalist working of the Orpheus myth by Peter Brooks and Jeremy Peyton Jones. The Gardiner Centre, Brighton (01-273 67457). 7.15-9.45pm, £2-25.

★ **DURAN DURAN**: Second leg of the streamlined group's comeback tour. NEC, Birmingham (01-270 4133). 6pm, £5.50-£11.50.

★ **GEORGIA SATELLITES**: Welcome return of the rough and ready American R'n'B band cast in an early Rolling Stones mould. Their current release, "Battleship Chains", is a classic in the two-chord Town & Country, 9-11 Highgate Rd, London NW1 (01-267 3334). 7.30pm, £5.

★ **CARIBBEAN CALYPSO TENT**: All the best in calypso and soca: direct from the Trinidad Carnival come Scrumptious, Relator and Brother Resistance, supported by London Calypsos Lord Cloak and Voodoo Soca. 100 Euston Rd, London NW1 (01-368 1359). 7.30pm, £4-25, for three nights.

★ **GAYE BIKERS ON ACID**: Great name, fab gear, shame about the music. Jolly Boatman, Hampton Court Way, Surrey (01-779 1010). 8pm, £2.50-£3.

★ **THE VOYAGE HOME - STAR TREK IV**: The Enterprise team star in another sick fantasy. Leonard Nimoy directs (119 min). Cannon Baywater (01-229 4149). Progs 2.30, 5.15, 8.15, 11.00. Cannon Edwards Road (01-723 5901). Progs 2.55, 5.35, 8.15, 11.15.

★ **EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE**: (01-437 1234). cc 01-240 7200. Progs 1.00, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30, 11.15.

★ **NIGHTINGALE/ENFANT**: Penultimate chance to see the Royal Opera's Academy-trained double-bass and Stravinsky's *The Nightingale* and Ravel's *L'enfant et les Sortilèges*, imaginatively cast and wondrously performed.

★ **COMPANY WEEK**: The latest season by Gustav Derik Bailey's collection of free improvisers features Lee Konitz (alto saxophone), Richard Teitelbaum (synthesizer), Steve Phillips (bass) and other like-minded mavericks. Arts Theatre, Great Newport Street, London W1 (01-836 2132). 8pm, £3.50.

★ **THE AMEN CORNER**: James Baldwin's powerful drama of a Harlem preacher facing revolt in congregation and race. Lyric Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (01-437 8888). Tue-Fri 7.30-10.30pm, Sat 8-11.15pm, matinee Wed 3-5.30pm, Sun 2.30-5.30pm, £4.50-21.50.

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★ **BUILT ON SAND**: New play by Daniel Mann relating the tragedy of Northern Ireland to the passions of ancient Greece. Theatre Upstairs, Royal Court Theatre, Sloane Square, SW1 (01-730 2554). Tue-Fri 7.30-10.30pm, Sat 8-11.15pm, matinee Wed 3-5.30pm, Sun 2.30-5.30pm, £4.50-21.50.

★ **DESIRE UNDER THE ELMS**: O'Neill's drama of violent passion on a New England farm involving father, new young wife and son. Greenwich Theatre, Crooms Hill, London SE10 (01-856 7757). Tue-Fri 7.30-10.30pm, Sat 8-11.15pm, matinee Wed 3-5.30pm, Sun 2.30-5.30pm, £4.50-21.50.

★ **LES LIAISONS DANGEREUSES**: Blood-chilling account of the destruction of innocence under the ancient regime. Tickets are like gold dust. Ambassadors Theatre, West Street, WC2 (01-636 6111). Tue-Fri 7.30-10.30pm, Sat 8-11.15pm, matinee Wed 3-5.30pm, Sun 2.30-5.30pm, £4.50-21.50.

★ **MUMBO JUMBO**: Mobil award winner about love awakening in a Belfast school. Lyric Theatre, King Street, W8 (01-741 2211). Tue-Fri 7.30-10.30pm, Sat 8-11.15pm, matinee Wed 3-5.30pm, Sun 2.30-5.30pm, £4.50-21.50.

★ **THE TICKET-OUT-LEAVE MAN**: Tom 'Lofly' Watt plays the prisoner on parole in a once famous Victorian social drama. Theatre Royal, Gaiety Theatre, Strand, WC2 (01-836 8108). Tue-Fri 7.30-10.30pm, Sat 8-11.15pm, matinee Wed 3-5.30pm, Sun 2.30-5.30pm, £4.50-21.50.

★ **WOMAN IN MIND**: Pagan Ayoub drama with Paula Collins as a wife at her wit's end. Vaudeville Theatre, Strand, WC2 (01-836 9887). Tue



## Elusive focus on vanished peoples

The grave was not "a fine and private place" for the long-dead Celt they dug out of a Cheshire swamp a couple of years ago.

His marvellously preserved remains were ecstatically explored by forensic scientists, who waved a 2,000-year-old esophagus at the camera and announced that death had been caused by a blow from an axe, a goring and a slit throat. If a murder is worth doing (as the old Celtic saw has it) it is worth doing well.

That filmed autopsy, screened again in Part 1 of the BBC's new documentary series

### TELEVISION

ries *The Celts*, was one of those compelling moments when a fragment of lost history, like the light from a distant star, arrives vividly in the present. There were not enough of those moments.

It was an awesomely difficult subject to tackle, the history of people who wrote nothing down, warrior-farmers who wandered restlessly all over Europe and left no monuments, only their art and the echo of a song. How do you draw focus on something as elusive as the vanished Celt?

The series producers tried to solve the problem by having actors in Old Testament robes engage in ancient Celtic rites, like fighting, getting drunk and singing rude songs, while their womenfolk painted their breasts with woad. All this suggested, however, was that the Celtic dawn occurred somewhere between Woodstock and Cardiff Arms Park.

Yet there were other, more imaginative devices that worked splendidly — a parody of the old Gaumont British newsreel to demonstrate the Celtic diaspora, a table-top battle between toy-soldier armies to dramatize the Celts' last stand against Julius Caesar's Romans.

*The Celts* is presented by Frank Delaney, the thinking man's Terry Wogan. He is personable, at ease with the camera, and he turns an elegant phrase. But he does not sound like a man in love with his subject.

Michael Dean

# Celebrating cinema's past glories

Nostalgia currently dominates the Cannes Festival, whether in a flashback all the way to *Intolerance* or a parade of clips from films shown over the event's 40-year history: David Robinson reports

There is a good deal of nostalgia about the fortieth edition of the Cannes Festival, and the Tavianis brothers' *Good Morning, Babylon* promised to be the ideal celebration of the cinema's past glories. The idea of the film is in itself inspired: the adventures of two Italian immigrant artisans who may have created the elephants for the Babylon set in D.W. Griffith's *Intolerance* — a spectacle still unsurpassed in film history.

Tonino Guerra's script develops a variety of themes: the trauma of immigration, the collision of cultures in early-century America. His heroes begin as stonemasons in Tuscany, the youngest of a family dedicated to church restoration, and heirs to generations of craftsmanship. The film thus intends a hymn to dedicated craftsmanship, whether in Romanesque cathedrals or the studios of Hollywood. Both, says Griffith (played by Charles Dance), in a climactic scene of the film, are born out of a collective dream.

For precisely 25 minutes the film is thrilling, with all the energy, visual grandeur and operatic intensity of the Tavianis' best work. Vincent Spano and Joaquim de Almeida are their ideal heroes, innocent and epic, bidding farewell to the parental home, crossing the Atlantic in an immigrant ship,

struggling for survival in the new land. The trouble starts with the Hollywood scenes (shot in Tuscany), which have no period sense or narrative conviction, as they collapse into trivial comedy. The final, irrelevantly tragic scenes (the brothers die at the front in 1917, photographing each other with a movie camera) try to recapture the grand operatic manner, but it is too late: quite another film seems to have intruded between the opening and the last sequence.

In a brief extract from the real *Intolerance*, Lillian Gish appears. Since Miss Gish's latest picture, Anderson's *The Whales of August*, is also in Cannes, this establishes a precedent with two performances in the same festival, separated by 71 years.

Miss Gish is expected in Cannes, but at 90 will not be the oldest festival personality. Charles Vanel, best remembered from *The Wages of Fear*, is on the Croisette, giving spritely interviews in which he recalls his film debut in 1908, his new role in Claude Goretta's latest film and his plans for the future.

A younger veteran in Cannes, Paul Newman, presents an intelligent version of *The Glass Menagerie*, in which he directs his wife



D.W. Griffith (Charles Dance) and his wife on a scaled-down *Intolerance* set in *Good Morning, Babylon*

Joanne Woodward. With handsome camerawork by Michael Ballhaus, it succeeds in being cinematic without detriment to the text or the unity of place. Newman gave a lively though dignified Press conference with forthright views. On directing: "I like to watch the faces." On acting: "The secret is to treat that thin line between taking yourself too seriously and not taking yourself seriously enough." On movies: "In an increasingly

anaesthetic society, I think the effect of emotion on the audience is devotedly to be pursued."

Nostalgia climaxes in a feature-length compilation, *Cinema in the Eyes*, assembled by the festival director Gilles Jacob himself. It includes extracts from 72 films shown over Cannes' 40 years; and the torrent of images, the rapid succession of dramatic climaxes and the babel of languages achieves a strange effect of dream. Ghosts

walk in movies: here are Marilyn Monroe, Jean Renoir, Francois Truffaut, Simone Signoret, Gerard Philippe large as life again.

It is fascinating to see what has dated and what has kept its quality. Strangely Bette Davis's artifice in *All About Eve* has worn much better than Marlon Brando's Method in *Viva Zapata!*. Even in these one-minute fragments, too, the qualities that make Renoir, Buñuel, Fellini, Tarkovsky and

Kurosawa masters stand out above the rest.

Britain has its place in Cannes history: here are *The Third Man*, *Room at the Top*, *If... The Go-Between*, *Excalibur*, all holding their own. It is sadder to see the monuments of French film *Partie de campagne*, *La Bataille du rail*, *Day For Night*, *Monsieur Hulot's Holiday* and compare them with the doldrums of French cinema today.

One French film in competition, Jean-Pierre Denis's *Champ d'honneur*, is attractive at least for its artlessness. About an incident in the Franco-Prussian War, it tells how a peasant lad, according to custom, takes money to replace a richer conscript. The performance of Cris Campion, a pleasant young actor first seen in *Pirates*, recalls (not accidentally) Audie Murphy in *The Red Badge of Courage*.

Artlessness is by no means a certain attraction; and the other French competition entry, Gerard Blain's *Pierre et Djemila*, was vigorously booed for it. The story of the tragic love of a French Romeo and an Arab Juliet, destroyed by the hostility of their communities, is earnestly meant but disastrously realized. Blain clearly admires but does not understand the minimalist style of the films of Robert Bresson.

Naivety triumphed however in a charming Greek debut film, *The Tree We Hunt* by Dimos Avdeliodis, which describes the summer holiday adventures of two small peasant boys on the island of Chios. Without pretension, Avdeliodis succeeds in conveying the real world, community and innocent amorality of children when they are removed from the restraints and influence of grown-ups.

## Fine opening for dramatic flair

Fleming Flindt's *The Lesson*, based on Ionesco's play, needs a cast of only three, but any economy in that respect is offset by the demands of the elaborate setting designed by Bernard Daydé: a solid-looking, ballet studio complete with huge mirrors around the walls and a large high window above.

What has made the ballet continuously popular in the repertoire of several companies since its creation (for Danish television) in 1963 is the skill with which Flindt has translated Ionesco's situation and ideas into a different context and medium, and the outstanding opportunities the roles offer to dancers of dramatic flair.

### DANCE

#### The Lesson Palace, Manchester

Northern Ballet Theatre's new production, premiered in Manchester this week, should suit some of the company's dancers very well, but the opening performances are being danced by two guest stars.

Rudolf Nureyev's interpretation of the mad teacher has been seen previously in his London seasons. A little more burly in appearance now — an impression accentuated by the wild mass in which he wears

his hair for this part — he graduates dramatic effect from the bizarre, timid initial appearance to the growing anger and power as he feeds his murderous obsession off his pupil's youthful energies.

That role is now played by Evelyn Desutter. With her blonde hair tied up in ribbons, she looks convincingly at least 10 years younger than she does as the decadent Miss Julie earlier in the programme. She becomes completely the besotted little ballet girl, eager, silly, pert and a little petulant.

The third member of the fatal trio is Grace Kaplan as the pianist: a figure of weary but determined authority, trying vainly to keep her dangerous employer in order but knowing and conniving at the inevitable outcome.

### CONCERT

#### Capricorn St John's

yard feeling, which is made still more flamboyant and slightly absurd by the figures that swirl upwards into the treble, voiced by violin, oboe and again piano. At 10 minutes the piece is no more than a scrap from this highly prolific composer, but it is just the right length to make a neat black joke.

Nordostoff's *Entgegen* was a little longer and much more ambitious, suggesting a composer full of creative energy which he cannot quite control. But perhaps this sense of invention brimming over was entirely intentional: each of the two movements was

It was once more the Danes who dominated this final concert in Capricorn's Nordic series, not just in numbers but in sheer musical prowess. And here I refer not to Pelle Gudmundsen-Holmgreen's *Terrace* for wind quintet, which was as barbarously schematic as the Six Movements for string quartet by the Icelandic composer Karolina Eriksdottir, but to the works of two younger men, both in their thirties: Poul Ruders and Anders Nordostoff.

Ruders's contribution was *Nightshade*, written for this occasion and a real Gothic horror of a piece, suffused with irony as much as with the sepulchral sounds of double bassoon, contrabass clarinet, gongs, low piano, horn and trombone. Within this heavily gloomy atmosphere, bells sound to intensify the grave-

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stretched tight between driving propulsion and an echoing calm, with the former ahead in the first and the latter in the second. The instrumentation, for a full mixed ensemble, was virtuoso, especially in the fast gestures that screeched through the pitch range.

The piece had a startling performance under Oliver Knussen, who also plucked the depths of the Ruders, and kept patience with the Finnish composer Kaija Saariaho's *Lichtbogen*. The other Finnish work in this curiously undiscriminating selection was Esa-Pekka Salonen's *Ysa I* for alto flute, which Helen Keen showed to be a manic, breathless essay in frustration, making it difficult to regret too much the composer's move into conducting.

Paul Griffiths

## Wilde's surprises still topical



Cool: Joanna Lumley and Clive Francis in *An Ideal Husband*

### The Turtle Gets There Too Pavilion, Brighton

It was brave of Vidar Eggertsson and his Egg Theatre to put on a play so concerned with silence in this barn-like venue, more associated with beer and skittles than Icelandic experimental theatre. After the initial premonitory ring of a telephone, the first words spoken by Eggertsson as William Carlos Williams are: "It comes out of the silence". In fact it came out of the slamming of doors, climbing of stairs and very audible comments from behind the bar.

*The Turtle Gets There Too* is a dialogue about poetry conducted by the two American poets, and friends, William Carlos Williams and Ezra Pound. Unexpectedly, perhaps, it is the less well known Williams, the patient, gentle physician-poet, who emerges as the hero. He is the only character to appear in person: Eggertsson, looking rather like the young Aldous Huxley, manages to convey Williams's humility and a sort of inner

radiance in a magnetic performance of rare sensitivity.

Pound is present only as a lively, irritable voice (spoken by the play's author Arni Ibsen — no relation); he mocks and lectures by turn in his attempt to make Williams desert his New Jersey practice and join him in Italy, at the heart of civilization as he sees it. Of course, that modern civilization turns out to be Mussolini's Fascism. Pound's grandiloquent attempt to come to terms with the whole of Western civilization leads to propaganda broadcasts — in fact he turns into a radio which cannot be switched off.

Williams's quiet and private poetic credo, that out of trusting silence and loving one's neighbour new perceptions will spring, seems to win hands down over Pound's idea of the poet's public role. However, the play's most moving moment occurs when Pound, in jail, recovers his singing voice in an extract from the Pisan Cantos. At the end, when he lapses into a silence more tragic than Williams's at the beginning, it is difficult to say who has won the argument.

Harry Eyres

### THEATRE

#### An Ideal Husband Chichester

At a time when City scandals are never out of the news this certainly seems the right Wilde play to revive. When Sir Robert Chiltern (David Gwillim) was a young man he sold a Government secret to the suave Baron Arnheim — a character Wilde unfortunately keeps out of his play by killing him off before it begins. For being thus economical with his honour Sir Robert is rewarded by the grateful Baron with £110,000: say a million in today's value. Naturally he goes into Parliament and 18 years later, nationally renowned as a man of honour, is about to be offered a seat in the Cabinet.

Enter Mrs Cheveley (Joanna Lumley) in heliotrope and diamonds. Inevitably this adventuress has proof of his murky secret and wants him to renege on his principles so as to swing Government backing behind some grubby deal of her own. Of course this suggestion is unthinkable: Mr Gwillim is fearfully stiff while Miss Lumley coolly lights a cigarette and flashes grins, whether or not he happens to be looking her way at the time. At last he must accept that her suggestion must be thought about. *Quite a dilemma.*

Enter Lord Goring, "the first well-dressed philosopher in the history of thought" and named for the Thames-side village where Wilde bizarrely and briefly set up house with his wife and Bosie. In a crucial second-act scene in Tony Britton's production Chiltern

defends himself in the usual way. He was young, everyone does it.

Gwillim begins the play looking as rigid as a mace but, once Mrs C has him by the short and curls, he is twisting and gasping on her line, like a fish — Schubert's Trout, perhaps, since this happens to be the music played between the acts. But in the scene when he tells Goring all, and allows his lips to tremble at the memory of Arnheim's wealth, Gwillim reveals the true rascality of the character, no matter that the play manages to get him off the hook. He shows pluck, his career is saved, his wife loves him even more: this makes the play interesting as fantasy autobiography but queasy as argument.

Clive Francis as Goring gives a more self-loving performance than the part requires, and I did not care for his habit of raising both hands to his temples like a toreador. But when he murmurs, as his rescue plot becomes tricky, "Awkward thing to manage", he bridges the gulf between dandy and humanity.

Humanity is hardly one of stainless Lady Chiltern's more striking features but Lucy Fleming has learnt to lose her temper convincingly and this helps. Miss Lumley looks the right age for Mrs Cheveley, something like 28, and a lighter touch to the cleverer lines will emphasize her power. A great many of the lines are clever, the melodramatic surprises of the plot still surprise and the audience, as usual, claps the ability of the stage crew to turn the scenery.

Jeremy Kingston

checked about at the end, and a couple of instrumental choruses of "Happy Birthday", there was little to indicate a gala event in progress. Van Morrison sang a grumpy version of "Moondance"; otherwise the sparrow-thin figure of Evans, sitting behind a Fender Rhodes piano, steered the band through long sequences of unannounced, sequestered material.

His distinctive big-band arrangements wrought coherence from a diverse selection. The ensemble hardly missed a step as it ran from a version of Hendrix's "Up from the Skies", that found the ener-

getic George Adams and Chris Hunter firing salvos of warbling flute phrases across the bows of Hiram Bullock's guitar, into the delicately swirling azure of the Mingus classic "Goodbye Pork Pie Hat". Sometimes such wrenches induced a giddy impression of James Last meeting Loose Tubes, as when they tackled the Police's "Synchronicity II", but the sheer gravitas of soloing by the likes of the saxophonist Don Weller, or Dave Bargeron's exquisite trombone effusions, ensured an entertainment of shifting brilliance.

David Sinclair

### JAZZ

#### Gil Evans Hammersmith Odeon

rather ascetic presentation of a distinguished anniversary line-up that included the pioneering soprano saxophonist Steve Lacy, the astonishing Brazilian percussionist Airto Moreira, though without the advertised Flora Purim, and enough "name" stars to start a Who's Who in Jazz.

Apart from a few balloons



## More power to the poor.

The poor need all kinds of power, or hunger and poverty won't go away.

Oxen or machine power is essential for growing crops. But first, of course, the poor need land to cultivate, for it is the peasant farmers who hold the solution to food scarcity and famine.

The trouble is that they are increasingly being deprived of it — often illegally — by growers of crops for export to the West (which has more food than it needs anyway).

So, in many countries, the poor are held powerless without land, or in perpetual debt as 'bonded labourers'. Christian Aid supports projects all over the world which release human potential for self-help, harnessing 'people power' to economic and social development. Please help us and let us tell you more.

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**Christian Aid**  
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THE CHURCHES IN ACTION WITH THE WORLD'S POOR.



## Healey attack on Nato general

By Philip Webster,  
Chief Political  
Correspondent

Mr Denis Healey made a scathing attack last night on Nato's European commander, accusing him of interfering in the General Election campaign.

Speaking in Llandudno, north Wales, on the eve of the Welsh Labour Party Conference, Mr Healey, Labour's foreign affairs spokesman, said that in remarks the previous night General Bernard Rogers was "making a false judgment based on ignorance of the essential political facts".

General Rogers, Nato's Supreme Allied Commander Europe, said in a BBC interview that if Labour implemented its non-nuclear defence policy it would be the straw that broke the camel's back for the American public, who would call for their troops to be withdrawn from Europe.

Mr Healey said that General Rogers, "a good military man", was "demob happy" and was due to leave his post in a few weeks. He said: "War is far too serious to be left to the generals".

General Rogers's judgment was clearly a political one and had nothing to do with military matters, Mr Healey said. He did not regard the general as an expert on the United States people.

US congressmen who did represent the American people had this week heavily defeated a proposal to reduce US American forces in Europe. Mr Healey said of General Rogers: "I admire many of the contributions he has made militarily to Nato but he was making a political judgment which the American congress has rejected".

He said that Mr Casper Weinberger, the US Defense Secretary, had recently said that it would be costly for American troops to be withdrawn.

Mr Healey shrugged off the result of the two most recent national opinion polls, one of which showed Labour in third place. "I have a feeling that some idiot has got lost in the computers. The polls gave absolutely opposite results."

## Britain closer to missiles accord

Continued from page 1

Group (NPG) session being held here.

Mr George Younger, the Secretary of State for Defence, met his counterparts, Mr Casper Weinberger and Dr Manfred Wörner, in separate talks to give the political nod of approval to what was already a strong military recommendation that the removal of cruise and Pershing 2 missiles from Europe in a long-range intermediate nuclear force (LRINF) deal with the Soviet Union should be "compensated" by the introduction of new systems

## Drawing power of a third world charity



Gerald Scarfe, the artist, painting an advertising sign outside the Commonwealth Institute yesterday to promote the opening of an exhibition mounted by the Catholic Fund for Overseas Development (Cafod).

The exhibition will run from May 19 to June 21 and has been organized by Cafod to mark its Silver Jubilee. The aim is to make people in Britain more aware of what life is like for millions of people in the world's poorest nations and to acquaint them with the work of the fund. The exhibition highlights conditions in Bangladesh, Kenya and Guyana, three of the 75 countries where Cafod is running relief projects.

## Charles digs ditches for an island crofter

By Ruth Gledhill

Prince Charles spent most of this week digging ditches, planting potatoes, fencing, crofting and sheep dipping with farm workers on a secluded, sparsely populated Scottish island.

The Prince left his wife behind for the three-day stay on Berneray, in the Hebrides.

"He and his bodyguards were in dungarees, just like everyone else, slaving away with the best of us," Mrs Chrissie MacAskill, whose husband Donald ferried the Prince to the island on Monday evening, said.

"He must be pretty fit because he was helping everyone with the chores on the croft."

Prince Charles stayed with Mr Donald MacKillop, a crofter, and his wife Gloria on the two-by-four mile island where most of the 120 inhabitants prefer to speak Gaelic.

Mrs MacAskill described how the heir to the throne helped her plant the family's

potato crop. She said that he followed behind the tractor with the potato bucket after helping with stock fencing, post cutting, fishing and rounding up the lambs.

"He had a wonderful time. He talked about everything and anything. He just came to see how we lived up here."

She said: "He was last here about two years ago with his wife on their royal tour of the Hebrides and he must have taken to the island way of life then. I think he appreciated the peace and quiet here. He certainly enjoyed the island ceilidh we laid on for him."

"There were Gaelic songs and a few English ones for his benefit. He joined in with great style."

Prince Charles, who left yesterday for an engagement in Glasgow, arranged to visit through the Queen's first cousin, the Fifth Earl of Granville, who lives at North Uist on the west coast of Scotland.

## Lost violin found after 51 years

Continued from page 1

Mr Beare was first approached about it in 1985 by Miss Rachel Goodkind, whose father had written the standard work on Stradivarius violins.

Mrs Hall had contacted her in an endeavour to establish whether or not she had "The Gibson". Mr Beare was intrigued and flew to New York to meet Mrs Hall but she never turned up.

Negotiations were then set in train by her cousin, a lawyer, but no-one was allowed to see the violin until the issue of ownership and reward had been resolved.

Mr Beare contacted Lloyd's, who were initially reluctant to get involved with reclaiming the instrument and had extraordinary difficulty in tracing the syndicates who had paid Huberman.

Finally Lloyd's retained a New York lawyer who negotiated an agreement with Mrs Hall. The violin now belongs to Lloyd's.

Mrs Hall, aged 69, met Altman in Washington in 1968 while awaiting a divorce from her first husband, a senior chaplain in the US army.

They met at a restaurant where Altman was entertaining. He played "Lara's Theme" from Dr Zhivago for her and she "became smitten". She said: "He played it like a dream".

After years of what she describes as a turbulent relationship, he was jailed for molesting her granddaughter.

She married him in March 1985 in Las Vegas, two days before he was sentenced to prison.

## Key seats poll puts Tories 140 ahead

Continued from page 1

is very or fairly likely to win the seat compared to 65 per cent of Labour supporters and 48 per cent of Alliance supporters.

Alliance morale is better. In the Conservative/Alliance marginals 87 per cent of Conservatives believe that their party has a very or fairly good chance of winning but only 71 per cent of Alliance supporters. The Labour figure in these seats is 55 per cent.

The news does not appear much more favourable overall for the SDP/Liberal Alliance. In the Conservative/Alliance marginals their vote is down by 6 per cent since March while Labour's is up 2 per cent and that of the Conservatives by 4 per cent.

In the Conservative/Alliance marginals, those in which the Alliance is the second place challenger, MORI measured support at Conservatives 42 per cent, Alliance 30 per cent and Labour 25 per cent. Again, the Alliance is down 7 per cent since March, the Conservatives are up 4 per cent and Labour is up 3 per cent.

The MORI poll reveals that the Conservatives have a considerable advantage over the other parties both in terms of leadership team image and of the popularity of their policies.

On leadership, 46 per cent of voters in the Conservative/Alliance marginals believed that the Conservatives have the best team of leaders compared with 21 per cent who gave the verdict to Labour and 16 per cent who reckoned that the Alliance had the best team. In the Conservative/Alliance marginals the figures were: Conservatives 47

per cent, Labour 17 per cent and Alliance 18 per cent.

In the Conservative/Alliance marginals 38 per cent of voters believed that the Conservatives have the best policies for the country compared to 25 per cent who said Labour and 20 per cent who believed that the Alliance had the best ideas.

In the Conservative/Alliance marginals 38 per cent backed the Conservatives, 21 per cent Labour and 24 per cent Alliance.

It cannot be good news for the Labour Party, which launched its election campaign with an assault on the Conservative record on unemployment, that the proportion of voters in Conservative/Alliance marginals which considers unemployment among the most important issues at the election has declined by 10 per cent since March as the unemployment figures have turned down.

The results of the MORI poll will be a considerable fillip for Conservative campaigners, after pre-election national opinion polls by Gallup and Marplan which have given the Government a lead of 9 per cent and 14 per cent respectively.

However there are some fears in the Conservative camp that their supporters may become complacent. And they will have noted the signs in the MORI poll of a quickening interest among Alliance supporters.

A poll carried out by Marplan appearing in today's *Daily Express* gives the Conservatives 41 per cent support, Labour 30 and the Alliance 26.

## Commons sketch

## Colourful clashes in the fawn pen

With his bright silver hair contrasting peculiarly with his bronzed face, Mr Edward Heath (Old Bexley and Sidcup) resembled a Beverley Sister gone to seed as he listened to young Tory after young Tory fawn and squelch to Mrs Thatcher.

He sat motionless in his slip-on shoes, right finger pressed to forehead, hand obscuring face, his eyes never quite closed, never quite open, the whole a curious mixture of sadness and self-sufficiency.

He seemed to share the distaste of the opposition benches for much that he had heard. The first fawn to waffle was Mr Timothy Yeo (South Suffolk) whose experience in charity management proved invaluable as he jangled Mrs Thatcher's election collection box.

"Does my Right Honourable Friend know that I speak for every law-abiding citizen in this great country of ours when I say that she is universally admired and respected for her kindness, patience, beauty and resolve?" - this is a blueprint for all thrusting Tory backbenchers' questions to the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister then replies that she fully agrees with the Honourable Gentleman, and that she would add that sales of liquorice allsorts in Leamington Spa have begun to reverse their downward trend, an improvement that would not have been possible under a Labour government with its punitive taxes, etcetera.

Sir Ian Percival (Southport, Conservative) obviously thought that Mr Yeo was being unnecessarily stingy with his contributions to the fawning fund. Millions of people up and down the country, he declared, would be praying for the Rt Hon Lady's health and strength. As he spoke on, the superlatives that came blundering out were drowned by the cheers and jeers of the Government and opposition in turn.

Looking like nothing so much as an animated balloon-glass full of curacao, Dame Jill Knight, dressed in beautiful blue, asked the Prime Minister to agree with her how awful it was that

Labour had the day before stopped a Bill that would help prevent children becoming homosexual when they grew up.

Shock! Horror! One could see the visions already forming in Dame Jill's lacquered head, of toddlers the length and breadth of this great country of ours already beginning to affect lisp, grow gauche moustaches and call each other "sweetie", and all because of Labour. Mrs Thatcher, herself a proud mother, quire agreed.

Mr Derek Spencer (Leicester South, Conservative) said that, as he was the member with the smallest majority (7), he thought he deserved an opportunity for some last minute sucking-up, or words to that effect. The onus was obviously on the somewhat opposition benches to murmur a smidgin of disagreement.

"Not so much a shortage of money as an absence of morality", crooned Mr Kinnock, criticizing the Government's handling of the National Health Service.

Vaudeville turn Mr Ron Lewis (Carlisle), the Harry Worth of British politics, brandished a copy of *The Daily Mail*, which he described with touching intimacy as the Prime Minister's favourite newspaper, and pointed to an article entitled "Who Takes The Prize For Champion Liar?". He then asked her to confirm that at no time over the past seven years had she told a single lie.

At this point Mr Roy Jenkins lifted his head to the ceiling. Was the Prime Minister trapped in the grips of a paradox? If he said "Yes, she could confirm", would that be a logical contradiction in itself?

Mrs Thatcher said that she hoped the gentleman had looked at the replies she had given from the despatch box and had found them accurate "to the very best level of my ability". Mr Jenkins lowered his head gently back down, his momentary sympathy with the Right Honourable Lady once again back in its proper place.

Craig Brown

## 25p income tax target

Continued from page 1

when it is prudent to do so, because lower taxes sharpen incentives, encourage enterprise, and leave people more money to save and invest."

He warned that if Labour or the Alliance gain power they would not put back this year's 2p reduction on to income tax.

The basic rate of tax would have to be doubled or VAT increased to 50 per cent to finance Labour's spending pledges.

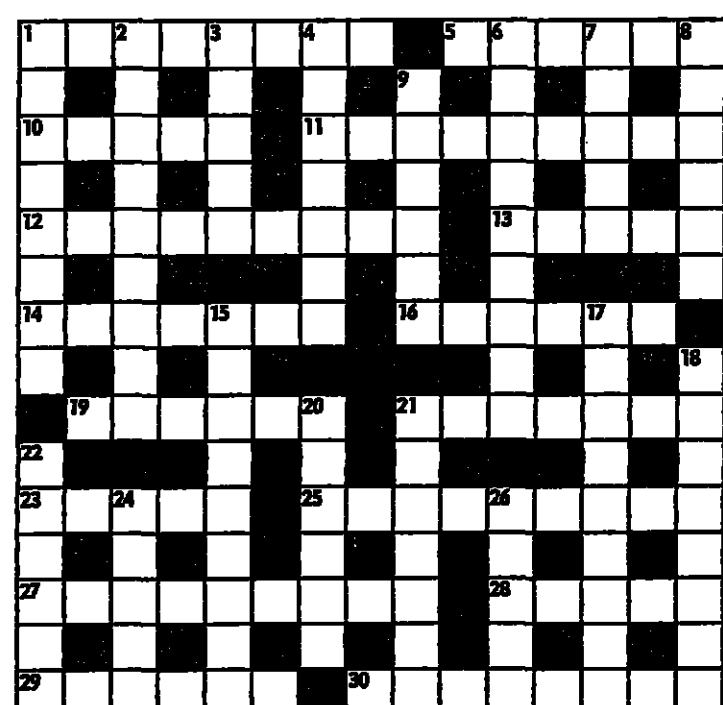
The choice facing the British people was as stark as it had ever been. They could

move forward in a spirit of free enterprise and initiative, with incentives to succeed, to compete with confidence in world markets. Or they could go back to the dismal days of state planning and regulation.

Scotland would need to rebuild Hadrian's Wall to stop people fleeing from higher taxes and rates if Labour gained power, Mr Norman Tebbit, party chairman, told the conference.

He said Labour's plans to abolish rate capping would lead to rocketing rates, while their plans for a Scottish assembly with tax-raising powers would be a disaster.

## The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,357



- ACROSS
- Crime discovered by detectives following one into house (8).
  - Approval as expressed by one of the Trinity boatmen (6).
  - Carrier with diet right in the middle (5).
  - Record order apt to cause embarrassment (9).
  - Lightweight in split gave up title (6).
  - First Lady books for sporting contest (5).
  - Walked when young shaver shined the way (7).
  - I'm not going to say why it is sung (6).
  - Neighbour involves little woman in a row (6).
  - Squashes a relative (7).
  - One left in dark (5).
  - Drink which may be barred (9).
  - It provides in-flight reading matter (9).
  - Lad that is moved to perfection (5).
  - Fears loss of opener to slips (6).
  - Money held in trust not long ago (8).
- DOWN
- It comes in term-time and gives rise to mirth (8).
  - Get pickled, notice, after our time in jolly surroundings (9).
  - Creature caught by decoy put in trap (5).
  - Concluded notes about Italian leader (7).
  - A single ship's deserter in river gets clear (9).
  - Search for a weapon (5).
  - "When I am grown to man's" (R.L. Stevenson) (6).
  - Comments by players - of the first eleven? (6).
  - Circus performer in Rome - Latin version (4,5).
  - Covenant to supply cricketers without a square (9).
  - It may be felt in a liner (8).
  - Delicacy in NE City redevelopment (6).
  - Chastise the cat, possibly (7).
  - Minister provides remedy without a word of thanks in return (6).
  - Fifty soldiers turned up with the King afterwards (5).
  - This girl sounds a droop (5).

Concise crossword, page 12

## WEATHER

General situation: a cold, showery, northerly airflow will affect all areas. The day will start cold, dry and quite clear in most places, with a touch of ground frost in one or two well sheltered areas. Coasts exposed to the fresh or strong northerly wind will have early showers, however, and during the morning more of these will develop in inland areas. Some will become heavy, particularly in eastern areas, where there may be hail and thunder in places. Well sheltered areas in the west could stay dry. Snow will fall in the higher areas of eastern and northern Scotland. Although it will be cold in all areas there should be some sunny intervals everywhere. Outlook for the weekend: becoming mainly dry and less cold with sunny periods, especially in the south.

### ABROAD

MIDDAY: c. cloud; d. drizzle; f. fair; lg. fog; r. rain; s. sun; snow; t. thunder.

Aleppo	10	66	Madrid	5	6
Algeria	10	66	Manila	18	64
Amman	10	66	Moscow	12	72
Baghdad	10	66	Mumbai	21	77
Bombay	10	66	Nairobi	18	64
Buenos Aires	10	66	Rangoon	18	64
Cairo	10	66	Reykjavik	12	72
Calcutta	10	66	Rome	12	72
Colon	10	66	Sao Paulo	12	72
Hong Kong	10	66	Singapore	12	72
London	10	66	Tokyo	12	72
Lyons	10	66	Yokohama	12	72
Paris	10	66			
Perth	10	66			
Rangoon	10	66			
Seoul	10	66			
Singapore	10	66			
Tokyo	10	66			
Yokohama	10	66			

### AROUND BRITAIN

Scarborough	0.5	12	54	dull
Birmingham	0.5	12	54	dull
Cardiff	0.5	12	54	dull
Edinburgh	0.5	12	54	dull
London	0.5	12	54	dull
Manchester	0.5	12	54	dull
Newcastle	0.5	12	54	dull
Nottingham	0.5	12	54	dull
Sheffield	0.5	12	54	dull
Sunderland	0.5	12	54	dull
Swansea	0.5	12	54	dull
Torquay	0.5	12	54	dull
Wolverhampton	0.5	12	54	dull
Wrexham	0.5	12	54	dull

### HIGH TIDES

London	9.15	4.30	am
Edinburgh	9.15	4.30	am
Manchester	9.15	4.30	am
Cardiff	9.15	4.30	am
Newcastle	9.15	4.30	am
Nottingham	9.15	4.30	am
Sheffield	9.15	4.30	am
Sunderland	9.15	4.30	am
Swansea	9.15	4.30	am
Torquay	9.15	4.30	am
Wolverhampton	9.15	4.30	am
Wrexham	9.15	4.30	am

## THE POUND

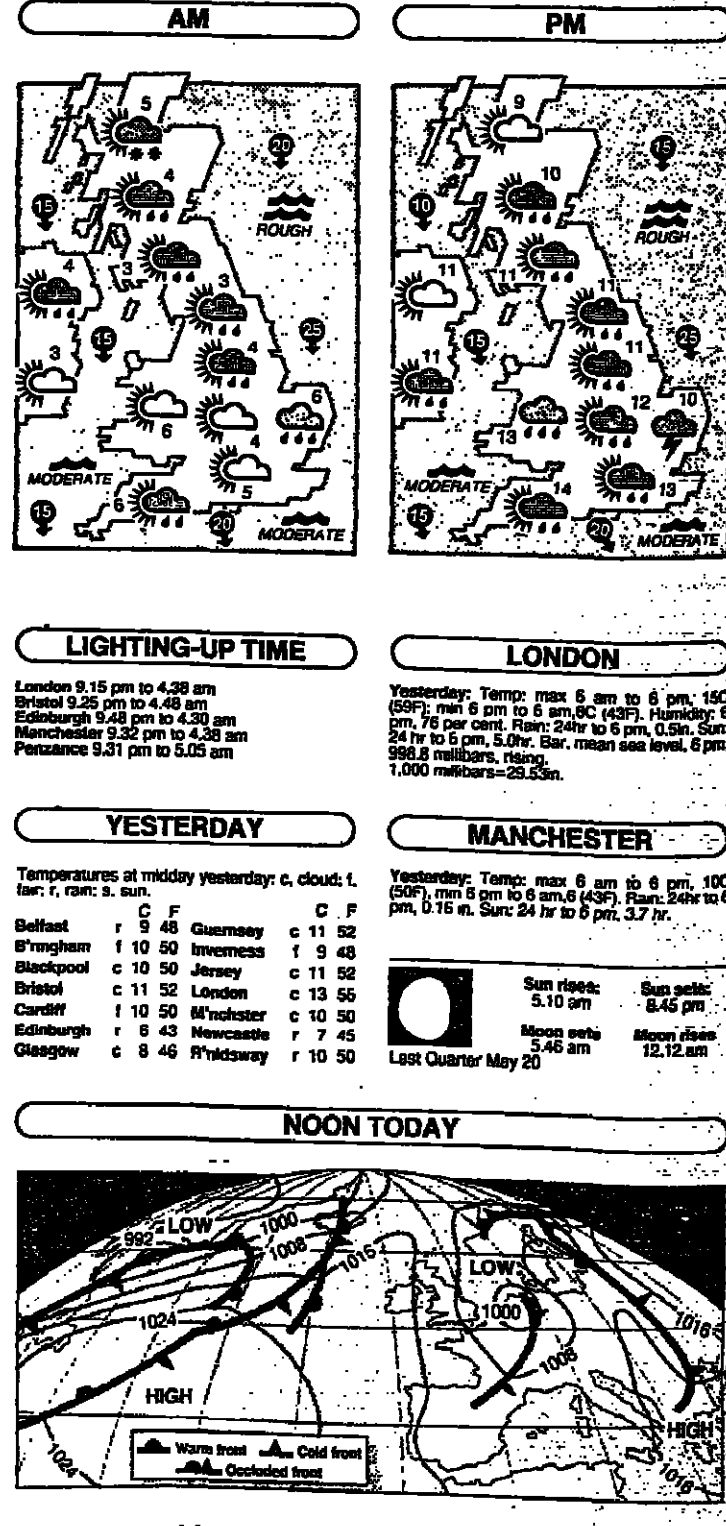
Australia \$	2.45
Canada \$	2.45
Denmark Kr	16.47
France F	6.55
Germany DM	3.36
Italy L	203.60
Japan Yen	237.50
Netherlands Gld	3.60
Spain Ptas	166.64
Sweden Kr	4.66
Switzerland Sfr	2.00
USA \$	1.93
Yugoslavia Dnr	13.66

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclay Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

Retail Price Index: 100.6

London: The FT index closed up 2.7 at 1684.2.

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Information supplied by the London Weather Centre.

فكرنا من الأصل



Executive Editor  
Kenneth Fleet

## STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share  
1684.2 (+3.7)FT-SE 100  
2180.0 (+16.6)Bargains  
475.73 (467.28)USM (Datastream)  
175.45 (+1.12)

## THE POUND

US dollar  
1.6780 (+0.0085)W German mark  
2.9961 (+0.0027)Trade-weighted  
73.7 (+0.2)ECC leaps  
by 35%  
to £43.1m

English China Clays, the minerals and construction group, reported better than expected interim results yesterday showing a 35 per cent increase in pretax profits to £43.1 million. Turnover rose by 10 per cent to £341.5 million. An interim dividend of 5p was declared.

The strongest advance was in the construction division where profits rose from £2.5 million to £5.3 million although commercial sales accounted for £1.7 million of this advance.

Tempus page 22

In tomorrow's *Family Money* what action should investors take in the run-up to the general election? How to get the best deal on selling your British Gas or Rolls-Royce shares, and insurance if you cannot pay the mortgage. Plus getting the most out of high interest bank accounts and buying a second home in Italy.

## Telecom job

British Telecom yesterday announced its single biggest defence contract, a £130 million order to design and construct a digital communications network for the RAF's project Boxer, which will provide secure links to more than 200 British sites. BT will install the optical fibre and microwave radio transmission links and has appointed STC for the long-haul optical fibre installations.

## SUMMARY

## STOCK MARKETS

New York	Dow Jones	2331.70 (+2.02)
Tokyo	Nikkei Dow	24851.44 (+288.25)
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	2853.92 (+20.39)
Amsterdam	Gen	228.54 (+2.2)
Sydney	AO	1848.4 (+1.0)
Frankfurt	Commerzbank	1788.3 (+1.13)
Brussels	General	4665.7 (+37.1)
Paris	CAC	448.8 (+2.5)
Zurich	SWX	535.10 (+2.4)
London	FT. A	2180.0 (+16.6)
FT. Gits		92.92 (+0.1)

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Closing prices Page 25

## MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:		
BHP	354p	(+12p)
Glaxo	1580p	(+32p)
Grand Met	535p	(+14p)
English China	485p	(+20p)
Norfolk	487p	(+12p)
W. S. & S.	1045p	(+95p)
Walker Greenbank	121p	(+15p)
Atlantic Computer	725p	(+33p)
Tomkins	453p	(+23p)
T. C. & S.	430p	(+58p)
Bass	994p	(+25p)
Unilever	2828p	(+30p)
Delyn Packaging	513p	(+51p)
Argy Group	464p	(+16p)
Milner Ford	114p	(+13p)
Wellcome	450p	(+21p)
Glaxo	140p	(+65p)
Ratners	359p	(+12p)

FALLS:

Royal Insurance	895p	(-24p)
Saatchi & Saatchi	630p	(-24p)

Prices are as at 4pm

## INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	9%
3-month Interbank	8 1/2% - 8 3/4%
3-month eligible bills	8 1/2% - 8 3/4%
buying rate	
US Prime Rate	8%
Federal Funds	5 5/8% - 5 5/8%
3-month Treasury Bills	5 5/8% - 5 5/8%
30-year bonds	10 1/2% - 10 1/2%

## CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£/\$	\$1.6780
£/DM	DM1.7880
£/Sfr	Sfr1.4895
£/FF	FF10.0010
£/Yen	Yen233.83
£/ECU	ECU 0.682503
£/Gold	Gold 0.781417

## GOLD

London Fixing:	
AM \$450.00 pm \$461.05	
OS \$460.50-461.00 (\$274.25-274.75)	
New York:	
Comex \$461.20-461.70	

## NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (June) pm \$18.75 bbl (\$18.77)	
Denotes latest trading price	

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Bank bullish  
on inflation  
3% growth and falls  
in jobless forecast

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

Inflation and the balance of payments are likely to turn out more favourably than forecast at the time of the Budget, according to the Bank of England's latest *Quarterly Bulletin*.

In a generally optimistic assessment of the immediate outlook for the British economy, the Bank says it expects the rate of inflation to peak around mid-year and then fall, possibly to below the 4 per cent forecast for the final quarter in the Budget. It also expects the deficit for the year on the current account of the balance of payments to be £1 billion better than the Budget forecast at about £1.5 billion.

In spite of slow growth in the world as a whole, the British economy is expected to go on expanding at about 3 per cent for the next 12 months, with further falls in unemployment. Growth is likely to be better balanced with higher investment and a better contribution from net trade.

But the Bank is concerned about further erosion of competitiveness through the continuing buoyancy of sterling. The gain in competitiveness achieved by last year's 14

per cent fall in the pound has been cut roughly in half by the 7 per cent recovery in the currency since the beginning of February.

The authorities' attitude to the exchange rate is now asymmetrical in the opposite sense to that indicated by the Chancellor at the time of the Paris accord in February. In other words, the Bank does not want to see any rise in sterling nor does it want it to fall substantially.

The Bank believes it right to intervene in foreign exchange markets on a larger scale than in recent years to hold down sterling until it becomes clearer whether upward pressure on the pound is likely to be sustained. This, however, poses the dilemma that intervention could boost the money supply on its broader measures.

While the immediate outlook for Britain is relatively bright, the Bank is gloomy about the world economy. Domestic demand in the leading seven countries is expected to grow more slowly this year at about 2.7 per cent, compared with 3.6 per cent last year. Although the contribution

from trade will be less adverse, GNP is expected to grow no faster than last year at about 2.5 per cent, which will have a limiting effect on the outlook for Britain.

The imbalance in the current account between the US and Japan and West Germany is expected to remain large, despite improvements in volume terms. This implies continuing capital flows "on a scale which markets may regard as being unsustainable."

The risks, says the Bank, include an uncontrolled slide in the dollar, a sharp rise in US interest rates and further shocks to the manufacturing sectors of West Germany and Japan - all of which would damage growth prospects in both the industrialized and developing world.

Protectionism is another serious worry, and the Bank criticises the US-Japanese semiconductor agreement as being at odds with the development of multilateral free trade.

The modest rate of growth also renews worries about the capacity of developing countries to repay their debts.

## US trade gap narrows

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The United States merchandise trade deficit narrowed to \$13.6 billion (£8.14 billion) last month, bolstered by a surge in exports which rose to a near-record level, although the performance was below market expectations.

Initial market reaction to the larger-than-expected deficit was negative. The dollar dropped sharply in early trading in New York, reflecting the view of traders that the deficit would drop much lower in March to the \$11 billion level.

But Administration officials

said they were heartened by the strong export performance which provided evidence that the record trade deficit was at last turning around.

Although imports last month rose to a record \$34.7 billion, US exports, which had failed to respond to the lower dollar, rose by 12.9 percent to \$21.1 billion. It was the best US export performance since March, 1981.

Administration officials received bad economic news on another front, however, when

the Office of Management and Budget revised upward its budget deficit projections for the 1988 fiscal year which begins in October.

Based on more recent data which reflected a slowing in the US economy, the Administration said the budget deficit would rise to \$135 billion, up sharply from an earlier projection of \$107.8 billion. The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that the deficit would be even higher, in the \$180 billion to \$190 billion range.

SE prices  
on the  
telephone

By Our Banking Correspondent

Members of the public will now be able to tap into the Stock Exchange's own share price system to get up-to-date prices on the telephone under a system launched yesterday by Teleshare.

The new system enables callers to dial into a single number and obtain "real time" prices on up to 4,000 shares and securities relayed to them by an electronic voice. The information comes directly from the Stock Exchange. Quotations System, which is also used by City market-makers. Teleshare claims that it is the first share quotation system of its kind in the world.

Teleshare works on ordinary telephones and identifies the user by a code. The customer can then hear the current price of any share by dialling the share's code. It is not a dealing service.

There are three categories of membership. Private investors will get the basic share information service. The service costs private investors £35 to join and a further £35 each year.

GrandMet leaps  
to interim £168m

By Carol Ferguson

Avoiding the worst effects of the weakening dollar, interim pretax profits at Grand Metropolitan jumped 18 per cent to £168 million for the half year to March 31. Without the decline in the dollar, profits would have been £6.6 million higher.

The total group turnover was virtually static at £2.57 billion, but if discontinued businesses are excluded, turnover rose by 12 per cent to £2.49 billion.

With the exception of the

Inter-Continental Hotel Corporation, all segments of the business did well, and margins



Stanley Grinstead

improved significantly across the board.

Mr Stanley Grinstead, the chairman, and his board are raising the interim dividend from 4p to 4.5p.

In brewing, where key brands include Carlsberg, Foster's, Holsten and Budweiser, sales rose as the group increased its share of a market which is essentially static. Increased efficiency helped profits to rise 15 per cent to £41.4 million.

The group also reported a strong performance from Mecca bookmakers following substantial investment. The public house investment programme is also paying off. Despite margin pressure in cheese and milk, trading profit from UK Foods rose 21 per cent to £19.3 million. In the US, underlying dollar profits rose by 30 per cent. However, on translation into sterling, the result was up 28 per cent to £27.1 million.

Although there are some signs of a recovery in London, the hotels did badly. Profits declined 4 per cent to £10.3 million.

Tempus, page 22

Oil company profits make post-election sell-off likely  
A privatized future for BP?

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Strong profits announced yesterday by BP make it inevitable that a new Conservative Government will spearhead its privatization programme with the sale of its 32 per cent holding in the company. The estimated proceeds have now been increased to £6 billion from the original £4.6 billion.

The Government will complete the necessary legislation today, enabling the sale to go ahead. It has also underwritten the cost of the sale and will appoint its overseas advisors to the privatization next week.

The BP privatization will be the largest-ever share sale on the world stock markets and is likely to be announced in the first week of a new Conservative Government and take place in the autumn.

Pressure from overseas institutions for shares in BP is already building up to such an extent that the Government will probably insist on a limit of 20 per cent of the shares on offer for overseas buyers.

That amount is likely to be trimmed if demand from within Britain is high.

With 60 per cent of its assets in the United States and only 6 per cent of its shares held by US investors, BP is anxious to increase its North American shareholder base and would have no objection to 50 per cent of the company eventually being held in the US.

The strong profit figures - £458 million for the first quarter on an historic cost basis, compared with £222 million for the same period last year, and profits of £324 million compared with £740 million on a replacement cost basis - have impressed oil industry analysts.

The BP cash flow in the first quarter of £1.3 billion has also boosted City enthusiasm for the company, which 24 hours earlier announced the successful completion of its £4.5 billion bid for the 45 per cent it did not already own in Standard Oil of Ohio.

Dr Tim Morgan, of brokers WI Carr and Company, said: "With a cash flow

like that it will not take BP long to pay for its purchase of Standard Oil. The company's performance is very impressive by any standard."

Enthusiasm for the company in the US has also been illustrated by the growing market for the warrants it issued as part of its bid for the US holding in Standard Oil. A warrant to buy an American Depositary Receipt in BP for \$80 during the next five years was given for each five Standard Oil shares tendered for sale to BP. These warrants are now changing hands at more than \$15 - \$5 more than original Wall Street estimates.

The more stable world oil price of about \$18 a barrel has also helped Royal Dutch Shell to produce first-quarter profit figures that have been welcomed by the City. The group's pretax profit was £1.57 billion compared with £1.95 billion last year, but it cut its taxation from £1.23 billion last year to £883 million and increased its share of the overall world oil market with improved crude oil and oil product sales.



Profit horizon: (from left) Mr Richard Dunn, Mr Hugh Dundas and Mr Derek Hunt yesterday

Retailers  
warned on  
debit card

By Our Banking Correspondent

Barclaycard said yesterday that it would make no more concessions to retailers on the terms of its new Connect debit card, despite threats by retailers to take their complaints to the Office of Fair Trading.

Barclays is due to launch the Connect card on June 3 and is hurriedly negotiating with retailers over the terms on which they will use the system. It warned the retailers that those who continued to resist accepting the Connect card would have to be taken out of the Visa card network altogether.

Mr Seymour Fortescue, a Barclays general manager, said that Barclaycard had agreed to requests to negotiate with retailers on lower charges for the Connect card.

He said that Barclays could not give in to retailers' demand that all traders accepting Visa cards, of which Barclaycard is one, should not also be obliged to accept the Connect card, which is also part of the Visa network. Barclays was bound by the Visa system's rules which insist that all Visa traders were required to accept all Visa cards.

"We have had legal advice on this and we believe our position is quite clear," Mr Fortescue said. But he added that 90 per cent of the 260,000 Visa traders in Britain had already agreed to accept the card.

Earlier this week, the Retail Consortium sent out a list of 14 leading retailers who rejected Barclaycard's current terms for the card. Mr Fortescue said that one of those on the list had earlier accepted the bank's terms but had since changed his mind.

Shipping firm  
in strike loss

Sea Containers, the Bermuda company which acquired Sealink British Ferries in 1984, incurred severance costs of \$32 million (£19.2 million) and strike and route withdrawal costs of \$11.7 million associated with the company's 1986 strike, Mr James Sherwood, the president, said.

The overall group result was a net loss of \$49.8 million compared with a 1985 net profit of \$39.5 million.

The group plans to sell Sea Containers House in London, which has been completed and is fully let. Mr Sherwood said: "Hopefully, our group will never again have to face such a difficult year as 1986."

Soaraway Saatchi  
climbs to £56m

By John Bell, City Editor

Saatchi & Saatchi, which last year became the world's largest advertising agency, continued its rapid growth in the half year to end-March.

Profits rose for the 23rd consecutive half year - this time by 117 per cent to £56.2 million.

The growth reflected a number of acquisitions last year, notably the purchase of Ted Bates, the leading US agency. Revenues were up 100 per cent to £367 million while earnings per share grew 21 per cent to 21.2p.

Mr Maurice Saatchi, the chairman, and his board are paying shareholders an interim dividend of 6.4p net, an increase of 24 per cent. This reflects the policy of matching dividends with earnings per share growth.

Despite widespread uncertainty among investors over the Ted Bates acquisition, which affected Saatchi shares badly last year, the merger seems to be progressing well in profit terms.

There were significant improvements in margins during

the half year from 14.1 per cent last year to 15.3 per cent this time, Mr Saatchi said. The group won important contracts from companies such as Mars, Unilever, Renault, ICI, RJR Nabisco, Johnson & Johnson and Procter & Gamble.

Mr Saatchi described the half year as an important one for the company. He said: "We entered 1987 as the world's leading firm in advertising and also as a worldwide force in the key marketing services sector, ranking number three in direct marketing, number three in sales promotion, number four in design and number seven in public relations."

The group completed its listing on the Paris Bourse helped by strong demand from Europe.

There were plans to widen the base of the company's shareholders by further listings in overseas markets, Mr Saatchi said. The current year would bring a consolidation of last year's advances and was expected to be a record period.

Tempus, page 22

Thames in  
record rise  
to £24.7m

By Colin Campbell

Thames Television, Britain's largest ITV contractor, saw pretax profits rise by 69 per cent to a record £24.75 million in its first full year as a listed company. The turnover rose from £190.9 million to £222.2 million.

The final dividend of 8p makes 12p for the year, but comments by Mr Hugh Dundas, chairman, about the uncertainty of advertising trends saw the fall by 31p to 488p yesterday.

Mr Dundas, accompanied by Mr Richard Dunn, managing director, and Mr Derek Hunt, finance director, said while unveiling the year-end figures that Thames Television was holding £15 million in cash, funds which the group is quite happy to hold on to while the uncertainty about advertising levels lasts.

Mr Dundas retires as chairman of Thames Television at this year's annual meeting and will be replaced by Sir Ian Trethowan, former director-general of the BBC and a director of Times Newspapers.

Tempus, page 23

## Gerrard jumps to £11.2m

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Gerrard and National, the discount house, yesterday announced profits after tax and transfers to reserves of £11.2 million over the year to April 5, up by £1 million from 10.2 million last year.

Mr Roger Gibbs, the chairman, said that in a year when interest rates remained unexpectedly high, the performance was very satisfactory. He said that all sides of the business had contributed to the group's profits.

The company is paying a final dividend of 14p, compared with 12.5p last year, giving a total dividend of 17p compared with 15.5p last year. Disclosed shareholders' funds jumped from £65.5 million to £92.2 million, but they include the £22 million raised in a rights issue last June.

G&N's new gilt-edged market-making operation appears to have contributed about 40 per cent of the profits of the

group, while the traditional discount house operation contributed about 50 per cent. "Our gilt market maker has been very active and very successful," Mr Gibbs said. "It looks as if we are succeeding in becoming a small international securities specialist," he added.

He said that the success of G&N's gilt operation so far owed much to the low start-up costs of the operation

Gerrard & National  
HOLDINGS PLC

## RESULTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5TH APRIL 1987

	1987	1986
PROFIT FOR THE YEAR	£11.219m	£10.120m
TOTAL COST OF DIVIDENDS	£6.479m	£4.726m
DISCLOSED SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS	£92.267m	£65.492m
TOTAL ASSETS	£417.670m	£376.517m

## GROUP PROFIT FOR THE YEAR

Group profit after providing for taxation, minority interests and a transfer to inner reserves amounted to £11.219m (1986 £10.120m). After this transfer, inner reserves stand at a higher figure than previously. In addition, £5,157,000 after tax, resulting from the sale of G&N Equipment Leasing Limited, has also been taken to inner reserves.

## DIVIDEND

It is proposed that a final dividend of 14p (1986 12.5p) be paid on each ordinary share of 25p. This, when added to the interim dividend already paid of 3p (1986 3p), will make a total of 17p (1986 15.5p) - an increase of 9.68%. The proposed dividend on the ordinary shares of 25p each will be payable to shareholders on the register as at the close of business on 12th June 1987.

## DISCLOSED SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS

The Group's disclosed shareholders' funds at 5th April 1987 were £92.267 million compared with £65.492 million last year. This year's figure includes the proceeds from the Rights Issue in June 1986, which amounted to £22.035 million.

## TOTAL ASSETS

Current assets, excluding those subject to repurchase arrangements, have risen from £376.5 million to £417.7 million. The addition of the £68.8 million of assets subject to repurchase arrangements gives a balance sheet total of £486.5 million compared with £438.4 million last year.

Gerrard & National  
HOLDINGS PLC

33 Lombard Street, London EC3V 9BQ. Tel: 01-623 9981



## BUSINESS SUMMARY

## Marginal increase for Bank of Ireland

Bank of Ireland, Eire's largest bank, yesterday announced a marginal increase in pretax profits of Ir£200,000 to Ir£281.5 million (£72.1 million) for the year to March 31, after difficult trading due to poor economic conditions in Ireland.

Group earnings per share rose by 4.2p to 31.5p, an increase of 15.4 per cent. A final dividend of 7.75p is proposed, giving a total dividend for the year of 11p. Net interest income remained almost static at Ir£335.9 million, although other income rose by 11 per cent to Ir£81.6 million. Group lending rose by Ir£1 billion over the year, but almost all of this was attributable to the purchase of BankAmerica Finance, the mortgage operation which is now renamed Bank of Ireland Home Mortgages.

## Eglinton calls for Ir£1.5m

Eglinton Oil and Gas is raising Ir£1.5 million (£1.32 million) with a rights issue of 6,535,910 new ordinary shares. The new shares will be offered at 25p each on the basis of one new share for every eight held, and carry an additional warrant element. Eglinton made a pre-tax loss of £173,806 in the year to December 31.

## Vaux in hotel site purchase

Swallow Hotels, the subsidiary of the Vaux Group, has paid £2.8 million for the Royal Hotel site in the centre of Bristol, where it will spend £9 million reconstructing the hotel. It has bought also a 6-acre site on the M1/M25 interchange at Watford, where it will build a 160 bedroom 4-star hotel. They will open in 1989.

## Brown &amp; Tawse buys

Brown & Tawse, the Dundee steel and pipeline products distributor, is paying £5.2 million cash for Stauff, an hydraulics distribution business, and a group of associated companies. These companies and their network of 27 distributorships throughout Britain do not constitute a formal group but are estimated to have earned between them profits of £400,000 in the 11 months to February 28.

Mr Douglas Rae, chairman and managing director of Brown & Tawse, said the acquisition offered "good potential for growth" through its wide customer base and national presence.

## API profit up 31% to £3m

Associated Paper Industries (API) increased profits by 31.5 per cent, from £2.313 million to £3.043 million in the six months to March 28. Earnings per share increased from 9.5p to 9.6p and shareholders collect a 2.5p interim dividend against 2.2p before. The highest contribution to profits came from two new acquisitions, Dri-Print Foils and Tenza.

## Sock Shop at the double

Sock Shop International share prices more than doubled on their first day of dealing on the USM yesterday. After opening at a 64 per cent premium to the 125p offer-for-sale price, the shares rose to 295p before settling at about 260p. On forecast profits of £1.7 million to end-September, the shares are selling on a p/e ratio of 50 times.

## STOCK MARKET

## Bejam reaches record on renewed bid speculation

By Michael Clark

Revived bid speculation boosted the shares of Bejam, the frozen food retailer and an old takeover favourite, yesterday, driving the price up by 9p to a record 192p.

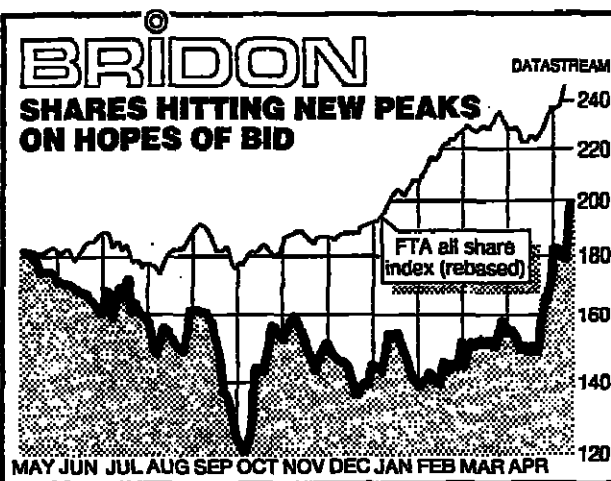
Once again, the name of Iceland Frozen Foods, a relative newcomer to the stock market, is being tipped as the likely bidder. Despite the fact that Iceland is still worth less than half the £239 million Bejam is currently capitalised at, some dealers still regard it as an ideal match.

Iceland is said to have already given Bejam, which now includes the Victor Value supermarket chain, the "once-over." Bejam is predominantly situated in the south, while Iceland's 128 outlets are situated between the North-west and South-west of England. Iceland, which last month raised £7.5 million by a rights issue after announcing a 30 per cent increase in pretax profits to £5.1 million, finished 4p higher at 362p.

Mr Malcolm Walker, Iceland's chairman, told shareholders at yesterday's annual meeting that the overall performance in 1987 would show a significant increase on last year.

Meanwhile, the rest of the equity market continued to reach fresh heights, although it was looking a little tired towards the close, with prices closing below their best level of the day. This was reflected in the FT-SE share 100, which leaped by 16.6 to a record level of 2,180.0, after being 20.5 up at one stage.

The narrower FT 30 share index finished only 3.7 up at 1,684.2, having been 9.0 points higher earlier.



Gills opened firm after Wednesday's first-ever auction of £1 billion of top stock, which was oversubscribed. But prices failed to hold their best levels, with rises at the longer end of the market restricted to £½ by the close.

Booker, the food distributor, stood out with a leap of 19p to 47½p yesterday — making a rise on the week of 36p. The group is on a visit to the US where it has been hoping to drum up support for its shares. But it has apparently ruled out the possibility of a quote there.

The Government's decision to plough more funds into the fight against Aids turned out to be good news for the drug companies. Wellcome, which has led the fight against the disease with its new drug, Retrovir, bounced up by 18p to 447p.

Grand Metropolitan jumped 5p to 526p after interim figures above most market expectations. Kleinwort Greaveson, the broker, had been looking for £167

million and must have been extremely pleased with the final outcome of £168 million.

The news from Grand Met also focused attention on the rest of the drinks sector with Bass climbing 22p to 991p ahead of figures soon. There were whispers in the market that it is about to buy the European side of Holiday Inns, the US hotel group. But Allied-Lyons, reporting next week, slid 5p to 431p.

Still responding to recent bullish comments from Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the broker, Glaxo advanced another 32p to £15.80 on a turnover of 2.4 million shares. BZW visited the company earlier this week and was impressed with the progress being made on the development front.

The re-rating of GEC, the electrical and electronics giant, continues apace. The shares advanced another 8p to 236p — a rise on the past 10 days of almost 40p.

Bridon, the old British Ropes, remained a hot takeover favourite, climbing 7p to a peak of 198p — making a

two-day gain of 21p — amid further hectic turnover. Yesterday, market men were talking of a possible bid from Williams Holdings, the acquisitive industrial holding group headed by Mr Nigel Rudd. Williams has had a poor track record to date. Last month, its fiercely contested £570 million bid for Norcross ended in failure as did a similar assault on McKechnie Bros last year. Talk that Williams had placed its 6 per cent stake in Norcross proved unfounded, although the price rose by 16p to 198p.

There has been intense speculation about a bid for Bridon for some time. Last year, several large holdings were built up in the company. Dealers have been talking about an opening shot of 220p a share, which would value Bridon at £121 million.

But there was the smell of burnt fingers in Morgan Cru-

● Mystery surrounded the sharp rise in Phicom, the light engineering and communications group, after Robert Fleming sold Magnum Corporation's 60.9 per cent stake to various institutions. Despite the move, dealers still regard Phicom as an ideal "shell" situation and a likely bid target.

● After Mr Robert Holmes a Court's Bell Group placed its entire 19 per cent holding in the company at around the 333p level. Last week, shares in Morgan Crucible raced ahead, on talk that the Bell Group was about to launch a full bid. Morgan Crucible ended 16p lower at 351p.

The news may have also fuelled speculation that Mr Ron Brierley, the New Zealand businessman, was about to sell his entire holding in Ultramar, up 5p at 250p.

## TEMPUS

## Hotels setback for GrandMet

As a diverse company, involved in many related but nevertheless separate activities, Grand Metropolitan has often been criticized for not firing on all cylinders.

Judging by the interim results, the group has nearly completed a realignment of its business, and is now ready to deliver results.

The only cylinder not quite firing smoothly is the Inter-Continental Hotels group, where profits have been stagnating.

The three Paris hotels are still suffering from the aftermath of last year's terrorism scares. And in America, business in its Houston hotel has been badly affected by the depressed state of the oil-related Texas economy.

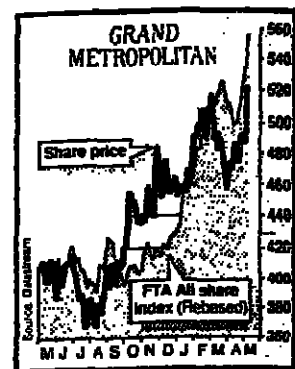
For a hotel chain with an up-market image and international brand recognition, an annual return of £30 million on a business reckoned to be worth £1 billion is clearly inadequate.

The problems, it appears, go somewhat deeper than just adverse trading conditions.

But Grand Metropolitan is now taking more direct control of Inter-Continental, cutting back its top-heavy management structure.

The group makes 45 per cent of its profits in the US and dollar weakness could cost the group dear in the second half. But it has a degree of hedging in that 90 per cent of its debt is now dollar denominated and the recent Swaps deal limits the exposure to rising US interest rates.

Full-year profit forecasts of £450 million are unlikely to be too ambitious and a prospective multiple of 14 does not look too demanding at this stage. The shares have not yet had the re-rating they deserve.



## Thames TV

Like vicars, commercial television companies should always tell the truth. But the price for honesty at Thames Television — that March network advertising revenue increased by only 4 per cent, and that there is uncertainty in the industry about short-term advertising trends — saw the share price down by 31p to 488p yesterday.

The fall also took the gloss off record pretax profits of £24.75 million against £14.63 million and the useful, additional 0.8 per cent slice of the industry's network revenue. Thames's share of network revenue has now reached 15.8 per cent, an increase largely due to the group's own sales push. Though there are more benefits from recent productivity agreements to come, nobody should look for the rate of profit increase to continue.

Wider investments in European satellite interests, new sales offices in Paris and Madrid and the ongoing selling programme to the United States, coupled with some growth of the home market, should lift Thames into higher ground this year, possibly to between £28 million and £30 million. For those with longer-term faith, the current weakness is a buying opportunity.

## RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES	
Amour (180p)	207 +1
Bellwinch (115p)	154 +4
Bonded Laminates	98
Burford (80p)	230 +10
Camb Instr (130p)	130
Camb Isolopes (55p)	83 -2
Capital Radio (105p)	172 -1
Colegraphia (125p)	185
Cooper (A) (130p)	148 +2
Cundell New (125p)	155 +2
Dalla Group (110p)	123
Doflex (155p)	173
Edwin (155p)	195 +2
Foflex	181
Malvern	240
March Gp	120 -1
Molex	226 +4
Nobo (152p)	180 +2
Perpetual (180p)	195
RKF	89 +1
Reliance Sec	175 +2
Scandinavian Bk (210p)	283 +3
Select App (135p)	226 -2
Sinclair G S (90p)	115 +5
Sock Shop (125p)	257
TSS Group (100p)	91 -2
UCL Gp	160
Virgin (140p)	168
Watergate (140p)	188
Wyville (120p)	220 +9
RIGHTS ISSUES	
Blackwood Hodge N/P	13½
Brent Walker N/P	173 -1
Fisher A N/P	18
Prent M&G Cnw N/P	241 +8
Tyzaac N/P	39 +1
Valus N/P	54 -2
Walker A N/P	59 +5

(Issue price in brackets).

## A shine on ECC

That English China Clays fared well in quarry products and housebuilding — was no great surprise since others in the field have produced fine figures of late. But the progress in clay and carbonates was particularly encouraging.

This division, accounting for two-thirds of trading profits, advanced by 27 per cent to £31.2 million and widened margins.

Group clay volumes worldwide grew by 9 per cent and price rises of between 3 and 4 per cent stuck. Calcium carbonates won similar price increases, but demand was firmer, rising by 14 per cent.

The underlying strength of the paper and writings market has exceeded expectations, absorbing much of the new capacity which has come on stream. Emphasis on higher quality coated papers has suited ECC perfectly.

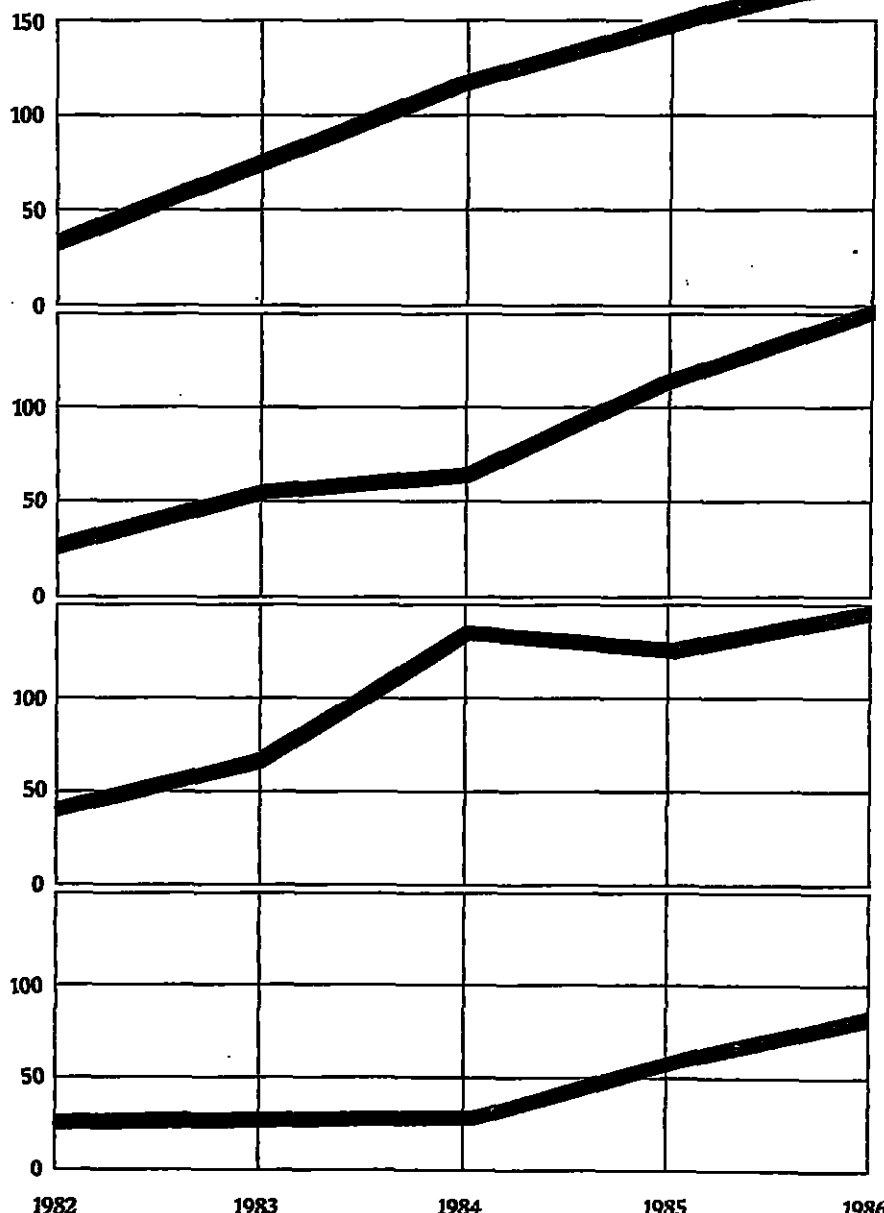
To meet growing demand — forecasters are expecting 3 to 4 per cent annual growth — ECC is spending more than £50 million on additional plant and reserves.

A weak dollar and strong pound is normally bad news for ECC's competitive position, but demand for pigments in the US is such that much of the adverse influence is avoided.

Things are looking good for housing and quarry products with lower interest rates and a solid road programme. The one black spot, International Drilling Fluids, remains profitable, unlike many of its competitors. It should continue to hold its own.

The shares are on an undemanding price/earnings ratio of 13 on full-year estimates of £110 million. They have further to go.

The graphs show growth in BTR's Profit before Interest and Tax in £ millions.



Growing places.

BTR

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## Annual Meeting of Stockholders

## BASF '87

The Annual Meeting of Stockholders will be held on Thursday, June 25, 1987, 10:00 a.m. at the BASF Feilabendhaus, Leuschnerstraße 47 Ludwigshafen/Rhine, West Germany

## Agenda

1. Presentation of the Financial Statements of BASF Aktiengesellschaft and BASF Aktiengesellschaft consolidated with its German Subsidiaries; presentation of the Annual Reports of BASF Aktiengesellschaft and BASF Aktiengesellschaft consolidated with its German Subsidiaries; presentation of the Supervisory Board Report.
2. Declaration of dividend.
3. Ratification of the actions of the Supervisory Board.
4. Ratification of the actions of the Board of Executive Directors.
5. Change to the Articles of Incorporation.
6. Appointment of auditors.

Shareholders wishing to participate in the Annual Meeting and to exercise their right to vote must have deposited their shares during normal office hours and in the prescribed form at a depository bank. The shares should remain deposited until the conclusion of the Annual Meeting. Shareholders have the right to vote by proxy. Depository banks and the full Agenda are published in the "Bundesanzeiger" of the German Federal Republic Nr. 90 of May 15, 1987.

Depository bank is in the U. K.: S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.

The deposit is only effective if the shares are submitted by Friday, June 19, 1987.

Ludwigshafen/Rhine, May 15, 1987  
The Board of Executive Directors

BASF Aktiengesellschaft  
D-6700 Ludwigshafen

BASF

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# Exco sale dents profits at British & Commonwealth

By Joe Joseph

British & Commonwealth, the former shipping group which has grown into an aggressive and innovative force in financial services since Mr John Gunn took over the helm last October, yesterday reported a fall in pretax profits to £51.5 million last year from a revised £78.7 million.

But the setback in the 1986 results, which analysts regard as little more than historic interest considering the flood of recent changes at B&C, can largely be traced to the sale in 1985 of Exco, the broking and banking group, whose absence from the 1986 accounts dented B&C's pretax figures.

Significantly, the company is paying an increased final dividend of 3.5p making 6p for last year, up from 5p previously.

Operating profits grew by 23 per cent in 1986 to £27.9 million, due largely to the significantly higher contribution made by financial services. B&C's air transport activities provided the only major blemish, with profits falling by £6.4 million as a result of the downturn in North Sea oil and reduced profit on aircraft sales.

The 1986 results provide little pointer to the state of the company today, since they reflect a period before B&C bought Exco back into the fold and before the major

restructuring of the group carried out since Mr Gunn was installed as chief executive and began his mission to build "Britain's largest non-bank financial services company."

Under his leadership, B&C has barely stood still, firing off two major agreed bids — one for Exco, the other for the overseas trading company Steel Brothers — and a string of smaller deals, like buying an 80 per cent stake in RMI, a top US government securities dealer. B&C is currently sitting on about £500 million of cash or marketable securities and no net gearing.

Analysts are already pencilling in pretax profits of about £140 million for 1987, with financial services fuelling the growth. "We are very positive about the financial side of the group, and we are very liquid," said Mr Peter Goldie, joint managing director, who will be chief executive in June when Mr Gunn becomes chairman.

Exco reported pretax profits of £70.08 million last year down from £87.44 million in 1985, when the results included £34.1 million for Telerate, the financial information group in which Exco had a 52 per cent stake for most of the year. There is no final dividend now that Exco is part of B&C.



John Gunn: plans Britain's biggest non-bank financial group

## Profits rise 94% at News Corp

By Ray Heath

News Corporation, the world's largest media group and publisher of *The Times*, *The Sunday Times*, *The Sun* and *News of the World*, almost doubled profits for the nine months to end-March.

The world-wide turnover of the company rose 44 per cent to Aus\$3.92 billion (£1.68 billion), while pretax profits increased by 94 per cent from Aus\$197 million to Aus\$382 million.

This was achieved despite a hefty increase in interest charges from Aus\$147 million to Aus\$268.9 million and a reduction in foreign exchange gains from Aus\$67.3 million to Aus\$32.9 million.

News Corporation's US interests performed best, contributing the bulk of profits and recording the largest percentage gain.

Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation provided most of the US trading profits, which jumped more than 200 per cent from Aus\$104.5 million to Aus\$315.62 million.

Fox's motion picture division, DeLuxe Laboratories — America's largest film processor — and CBS/Fox Video, the country's leading home video tape distributor, produced excellent results, according to the company. However, News Corporation's US publishing interests and newspapers contributed only a marginal profit increase.

In Britain, the benefits of News International's new plant at Wapping helped to offset advertising revenues, which were below expectations, and "very disappointing" results from Sky Channel.

*The Sun*, *News of the World* and *The Sunday Times* all produced good trading profits and the total British performance improved 20 per cent to Aus\$198 million (£85 million).

News Corporation's Australian profits were boosted by the Hong Kong South China Morning Post group and the Herald and Weekly Times.

While advertising conditions remained difficult, *The Australian* and *Daily Telegraph* in Sydney showed good profit growth. Trading profits in Australia were up 28 per cent to Aus\$66.3 million.

The last quarter's figures from News Corporation will contain an extraordinary gain of about Aus\$600 million from the sale of its Australian television and broadcasting interests earlier this year.

## COMMENT Kenneth Fleet

### Saatchi discovers fresh fields for conquest

It ought to be getting harder for Saatchi & Saatchi to continue delivering the goods after year upon year of relentless growth. Yet even after attaining the distinction of becoming the world's biggest advertising agency, there is no shortage of ideas about where to go next. The Saatchi brothers have their sights firmly fixed on consultancy as a fresh field to conquer, having acquired one of the leading US companies last year.

Shareholders need look no further to discover the next engine of growth to drive the group to even bigger things. The brothers have chosen their target well. In Britain, revenues of consulting firms grew by 35 per cent last year. In some specialist niches of the business, the potential is even greater. In information-technology, consultancy-income almost doubled.

The Saatchis have researched and planned their diversification strategy meticulously in the past. Their analysis of the potential in consulting suggests that by the end of the decade there will be a worldwide market worth \$200 billion, with fewer than 10 broadly-based groups, accounting for, perhaps, a third of the business. In reaching the top spot in the advertising world, Saatchi devised and pursued a policy of equipping itself to provide global services for global businesses.

Meanwhile, Saatchi has laid to rest one important fear, which panicked

investors last year. It was said that the client-conflicts arising from the merger of Ted Bates's operations with Saatchi's own in the US would lead to a wholesale loss of big accounts and to Saatchi's image in a world where gloss is all.

There were, indeed, substantial and painful defections. Hundreds of millions of billings disappeared in search of other agencies. The City, shaken by what looked like the first real setback to the group's dynamic growth, was in no mood for bravery and sold the shares heavily.

It is now clear that the endlessly-repeated observation, endlessly ignored in the market, that new business was coming in as quickly as, in fact, perfectly true. The half-year figures revealed yesterday were several millions better than the most optimistic of outside forecasts. In fact, they were, perhaps, £3 million better than they looked, due to a decision to adopt a conservative conversion rate for dollar-earnings during the six months.

With perfect hindsight, Saatchi shares were hopelessly oversold at the equivalent of 430p last autumn. Now, at 624p, after a bout of predictable profit-taking, they are still not expensive. Profits of £115 million are within reach this year, leaving the shares on an average market rating.

As Saatchi has shown all too clearly for the past decade, it is by no means an average company.

## Clerical in fixed price share offer

By Amanda Pardoe

Clerical Medical International, a Luxembourg-based subsidiary of the insurance company Clerical Medical, is offering 100 million shares at a fixed price of £1 each.

It is believed to be the first time a British mutual life office has set up an offshore closed-end investment company. CMI will offer investors access to various world markets. On offer are three risk-rated portfolios — Safeguard, Growth and Enterprise.

The subscription lists for the shares will open on June 1. The minimum investment is £1,000, with a minimum of £500 in any one portfolio.

Shareholders who invest more than £2,500 in shares during the initial offer period and hold on to them for 12 months will receive a one per cent additional allocation.

The prospectus will be printed in *The Times* tomorrow.

## Insurers shrug off big winter claims

By Joe Joseph

Britain's biggest general insurance group, Royal Insurance, and General Accident, the composite insurer, both continued the recovery seen last year to report a healthy performance at the end of the first quarter despite a painful flood of claims sparked by freezing weather in Britain last winter.

"It is clear that 1987 will be better than 1986, and 1988 will be better still," said Mr Chris Pountain, an insurance analyst with Wood Mackenzie, the stockbroker. "Business in North America has been better than expected."

While Nokia will not be

particularly for Royal, and both companies are at last seeing some signs of improvement in British motor insurance.

Royal, building on last year's record returns, reported pretax profits of £47.8 million, up from £29.4 million in the first three months of 1986, despite a £3.8 million loss from unfavourable exchange rate movements. General premiums were up to £811.5 million from £744.9 million.

But the company warns that the first quarter figures should not be seen as a barometer of the year's likely outcome.

Dealing in the preferred shares began on Monday.

## Chemox in £5.4m flotation

By Alexandra Jackson

Chemox International, the processor and developer of specialty chemicals, has come to the market by way of a placing of 1,046,680 shares at 185p by De Zoete & Bevan Ltd, valuing the company at £5.4 million.

Chemox was the subject of a management buyout from Carless, Capel & Leonard in 1984 and has moved from a pre-tax loss of £165,000 in 1983-84 to pretax profits of £436,000 in 1986-87. The shares are selling on an historic p/e ratio of 13 times on a 27 per cent tax charge.

Of the shares being placed, 650,000 are new shares which will raise £1.02 million net of expenses. The money will be used to commission a new reaction and distillation plant at the group's 15-acre freehold site on Teesside.

Two-thirds of Chemox's business is in the processing of chemicals for third parties.

## Reed plan to sell DIY arm could threaten jobs

By Derek Harris  
Industrial Editor

Possible loss of jobs in Britain could become an issue in the planned sale by Reed International of its paint and DIY group, with brands including Crown and Polycell.

This was indicated yesterday by Mr Paul Lever, managing director of Crown Paints, one of the leaders of the consortium that wants to buy out the operation from Reed. But it is looking as though a number of big companies here and abroad will also put in bids to Reed.

The paint and DIY interests of Reed are expected to fetch about £200 million.

The jobs threat is in the paint sector, according to Mr Lever. "As far as jobs are concerned, our management buy-out plan does not include any significant redundancies. But one cannot answer for any other new owner. What if a fancy price is paid by a company which has ample paint-making capacity?"

Crown has two paint manufacturing operations, with about 1,200 workers at Darwin, Lancashire, and 300 at

Haltwhistle on the edge of the Borders. At both locations Crown is the biggest employer in the area.

Speculation on possible competitive bids focus on Berger, part of West German's Hoechst. Blundell-Pergo, a subsidiary of Akzo in The Netherlands; Donald Macpherson, which is Finnish owned; and Yorkshire-based Kalon.

ICI, which with Dulux is leader in premium-branded paints, is an unlikely contender owing to monopoly implications. ICI has about 32

per cent of the branded retail market where Crown is second with 17 per cent.

But Polycell, market leader in home decoration adhesives and fillers, could prove a big draw as a brand for a foreign predator looking for a strong foothold in the British market.

## No referral

The proposed acquisition by Segram Distillers of George Morton Limited, from the Anglo Group, will not be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

## Zorn with the wind?

Raphael Zorn, one of the City's few remaining independent firms of stockbrokers, celebrates its 200th anniversary next week. It could be just in the nick of time. Its partners have been sighted in various watering holes within the Square Mile, entertaining just a little too generously and smiling just a little too broadly — giving rise to speculation that a takeover bid could be at last on the way. The firms seven equity partners, led by senior partner Graham Laine, were locked away in yet another all day meeting yesterday, making it impossible for anyone to confirm my story. But they are, I understand, in negotiations with at least two suitors and news of a deal — valuing Raphael at an estimated £15 million — is imminent. There should be a million or two in it for each of them.

## The numbers game

"Whitehall officials believe" will be one phrase missing from all national newspapers over the next four weeks. Anxious to preserve its reputation for impartiality, which has come under some strain in recent years, the Civil Service has to be particularly on its guard during the election campaign. An early casualty of pain Mrs Thatcher's election date announcement are the regular briefings held in Whitehall on official statistics. According to

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### A useful commodity

Saxon Tate, chairman of the London Commodity Exchange — which is due to move to its new docklands home, Commodity Quay, later this month — is keeping his fingers crossed that the move goes without a hitch. Tate, a member of the wealthy Tate & Lyle sugar family, hopes that his last experience of an opening ceremony hasn't set a precedent. A

few years ago, before he became a commodity broker, his luggage was stolen as he travelled from Swaziland to Pakistan, for the opening of a sugar mill. He was left with what he stood up in — a pair of jeans and a Mr Cobe T-shirt. But a quick whiplash saved the day and he was suitably attired to rub shoulders with the president of Pakistan.

The Department of Employment, its information activities during the election period are "severely circumscribed". Yesterday's briefing on the

unemployment figures was cancelled and we will never now know — at least until after June 11 — whether officials believe it is about to drop below that magic 3 million figure.

## Soft south

Who says there's no such thing as a north-south divide? Not Tony Pidgeley, who builds houses for the rich in the "soft" south. His Berkeley Group handed over the keys to 331 new dwellings last year, and collected an average of £163,000 for each. Two of them, in opulent St George's Hill, Weybridge, went for £550,000 each. The buyers were an "American banker and a Middle East family," he says. This year he will have six new homes up for sale in Coombe Hill, Kingston-upon-Thames. He reckons they will fetch a cool £750,000 apiece. Form an orderly queue, please.

## Schooled at Harvard

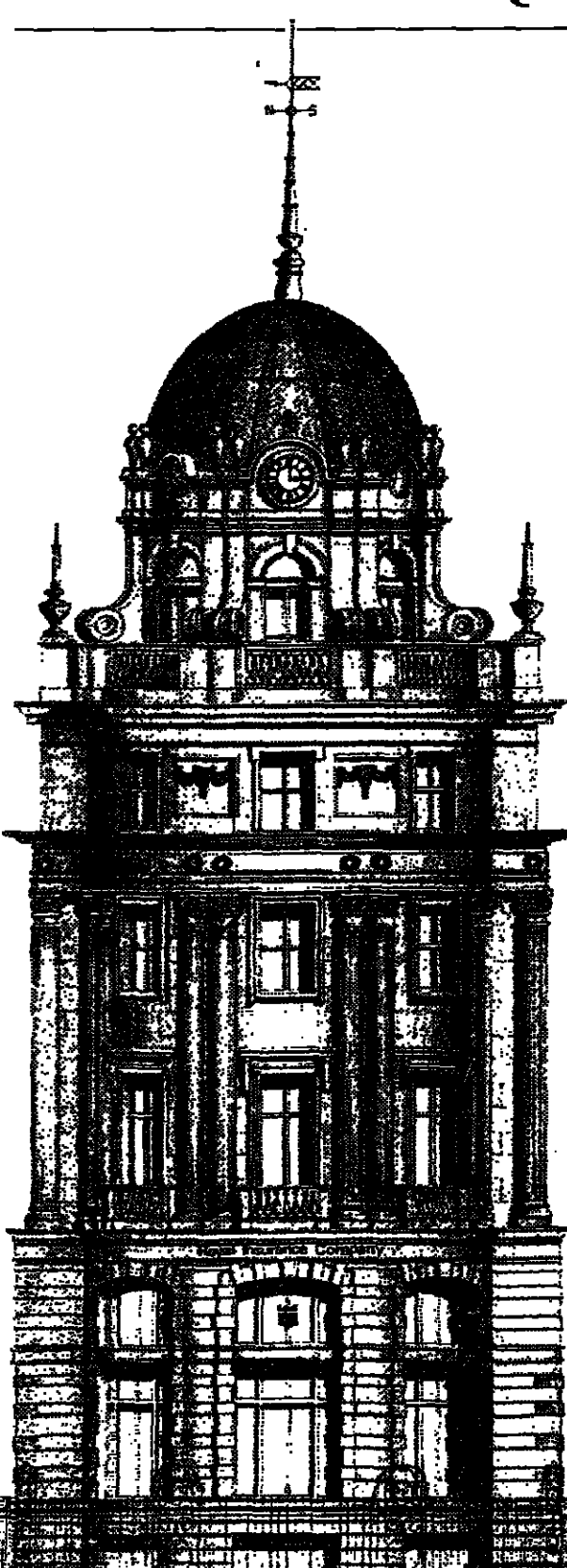
It has often been said that for a man, choosing a secretary can be a bit like choosing a wife. Since most senior business executives spend more time in the office than at home with their wives, it is perhaps, hardly surprising. But Tom Witton, colourful chairman of lively licensed dealer Harvard Securities, seems to be finding the selection process far from easy. Acting on an anonymous tip-off that his latest secretary had left abruptly, I discovered that he has employed some half-a-dozen temporary secretaries in the past few months. His colleague Tom Vallance, the compliance officer at Harvard, tells me: "At one time they were being changed once a week." What exactly is he looking for? "He likes them to be pretty, to be a hostess and to do instantaneous work — it's a very demanding job," explains Vallance. A bottle of champagne, no doubt, for the eventual lucky lady.

## Socking it . . .

How the rich get richer. Sophie Mirman and her husband Richard Ross, the 30-year-old founders of Sock Shop, saw their new-found fortune more than double within minutes yesterday. As the shares, offered for sale at 125p, soared to 295p in early trading, the value of their remaining 82 per cent holding climbed from £22 million to almost £53 million. At the close, with the shares back down to 257p, their fortune was back down to a mere £46 million.

Carol Leonard

## ESTIMATED FIRST QUARTER RESULTS 1987



Pre-tax profits increased by over 62% to £47.8m and earnings per share rose from 10.2p to 13.2p.

The recovery in results continued in both the United States, where there was a pre-tax profit of £41.2m and in Canada which achieved a profit of £11.8m.

In the United Kingdom there was a pre-tax loss of £18.7m with the result being severely affected by some £56m of weather claims, the highest ever total in a quarter.

Pre-tax earnings for Royal Life Holdings rose by over 38% to £10.1m. New annual life premiums increased by 30% to £21.3m and new single premiums by 90% to £123.1m.

Operating conditions in our major markets remained favourable. Taking into account the weather losses and some not unexpected resurgence of competition in the United States, we have made a useful start to a year during which we believe there will be further benefits from the improvement strategies implemented in recent years.

	3 Months to 31 March 1987	3 Months to 31 March 1986	Year 1986 (audited)
	£m	£m	£m
General Premiums	811.5	744.9	3,103.1
Long-term Premiums	228.3	144.4	692.3
General Insurance:			
Underwriting			
Balance	-57.0	-65.3	-108.8
Allocated Investment			
Income	66.7	66.6	278.8
Result	9.7	1.3	170.0
Long-term Insurance			
Profit	8.7	7.0	28.4
Investment Income			
attributable to Capital and Reserves	23.7	18.7	89.3
Share of Associated Companies' profits	5.7	2.4	17.1
Profit before taxation	47.8	29.4	304.8
Taxation	16.2	5.1	54.4
Minority Interests	0.4	0.3	1.8
Net Profit	31.2	24.0	248.6
Earnings per share	13.2p	10.2p	105.3p
Capital and Reserves	£2,496m	£2,159m	£2,465m

The shareholders' leaflet is posted to shareholders. Copies can be obtained from Corporate Relations, Royal Insurance plc, 1 Cornhill, London, EC3V 3QR.

**Royal Insurance**



**G Glynwed International**

If you would like a copy of the 1986 Report & Accounts, write to the Group Secretary, Glynwed International plc, Headland House, New Coventry Road, Sheldon, Birmingham B26 3AZ.











# Deputy chairman is named at RHM

Ranks Hovis McDougall: Mr SG McElduff becomes deputy chairman and continues as managing director and Mr TS Howden becomes assistant managing director.

Greenwell Montagu Stockbrokers: Mr Graham Cloake, Mr Derek Long, Mr Nathan Moss and Mr Roy Whithear become directors.

Cronite Group: Mr Norman Gardner joins the board.

Merston Peters: Mr Michael Peters becomes managing director.

Leeds & Holbeck Building Society: Mr TG Turnbull has

## APPOINTMENTS

been made president and Lord Marshall of Leeds vice-president.

Pergamon-BPCC Publishing Corporation: Mr Ron Chilton becomes a non-executive director.

F Copson: Mr Bryan Oxyby and Mr David Kingstone are made joint managing directors.

Berkeley Group: Mr Peter Francis and Mr Graham Roper have been appointed to the main board.

Ciba-Geigy: Mr John Fraser becomes chief executive (UK) and chairman of The Clayton Aniline Company, Ciba-Geigy Chemicals and Grelag-CX.

Noble Lowndes: Mr Ben Carroll is appointed managing director of Noble Lowndes International and joins the board of Banskander Noble Lowndes.

Town & Country Building Society: Mr Ian Bell is made managing director.

Stewart Wrightson: Mr Edward Benfield becomes chairman of Golding Stewart Wrightson Marine and joins the main board.

Phillips & Drew: Mr SG Belleil, Mr SD Corker, Mr AW Davies, Mr PHC De Bray, Mr GJ Ellacombe, Mr CG Gooding, Mr AW Goodwin, Mr RF Green, Mr RH Hannah, Mr DHS Hobbs, Mr DH Mackinnon, Mr PJ McThomson, Mr AE Whitteham and Mr P Richardson join the board.

# Berkeley Group in £35m rights issue

By Michael Tate

Berkeley Group, the house-builder, is asking shareholders for £35 million to finance its ambitious expansion plans. Shareholders are offered one new share for every three held at 35p each.

It is Berkeley's third rights issue in the three years since Mr Jim Farrer and Mr Tony Pidgley, chairman and managing director respectively, brought their young but fast-growing housebuilding business to the market.

Few shareholders are likely to complain. The shares, offered for sale at 85p in the summer of 1984, were yesterday changing hands at more than 400p, encouraged by another batch of near faultless trading results.

Profits more than doubled in the year to April 30 from £3.83 million to £8.55 million, on turnover up from £31.79 million to £52.92 million. A final dividend of 1.65p is recommended, making 2.5p for the year against an adjusted 2.1p last time.

Analysts are already penciling in £15 million profits for the current year.

Neither Mr Farrer nor Mr Pidgley will take up all their rights. After the issue, their joint holdings are likely to be diluted from just over 30 per cent to about 28 per cent.

Berkeley has carved out a significant chunk of the housebuilding market in the



Looking to expand: Jim Farrer (left) and Tony Pidgley

most prosperous parts of Surrey, Berkshire, Kent and Hampshire.

This year the company will build between 400 and 500 homes. It plans to open up in Bristol and expand in Hertfordshire, where, says Mr Pidgley, "nobody has yet really moved into the market that we're in."

But a takeover spree looks unlikely. Mr Pidgley says: "We have looked at two or three possibilities, but they are all so expensive."

The cash will, however, give the group "greater flexibility to take advantage of opportunities for expansion".

Group forward sales last year were "at a record level". All the housebuilding subsidiaries made positive contributions to profits and the company also shared a £500,000 maiden profit from the joint venture with Speyhawk Land "continues to be readily available" and demand remains "outstanding", says Mr Pidgley.

# Computer People coming to market

By Joe Joseph

Computer People, an employment agency which supplies specialised computer staff to a wide range of organisations and businesses, is coming to the full market in a joint placing and offer of 3.39 million ordinary 5p shares at 230p each, capitalizing the company at £26 million.

Half of the shares will be placed by Hill Samuel, the merchant bank, and the other half offered to the public. Stock Exchange deals in the shares are expected to begin on May 28.

Computer People, which draws almost a third of its £28 million turnover from the US operations it started up in 1976, either hires out computer consultants under contract or recruits new personnel for its clients' permanent staff.

The company reported pre-tax profits last year of £1.7 million.

The directors consider that a full Stock Exchange listing will give the company a more prominent profile among potential clients, help to reduce borrowings and will provide access to finance for future acquisitions.

At the placing and offer price the company has a historic price-earnings multiple of 19.4 (at 35 per cent tax) and a forecast dividend yield of 2.1 per cent.

## TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings May 15 Last Dealings May 15 Last Declaration August 17 For Settlement August 17  
Call options were taken out on 14/5/87. Control Secs., Sound Diffusion, Apricot Computers, Sheraton Securities, Gossy Estates, Property Trust, Sears, Johnson Firth Brown, Rank Hovis, Bndon, Aran Energy, Blacks Leisure, Berkeley & Hay Hill, Put & Call Ltd.

## LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Time Month	Open	High	Low	Close	Est Val
Three Month Sterling	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Jun 87	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Sep 87	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Dec 87	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Mar 88	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Jun 88	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Sep 88	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Dec 88	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Mar 89	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Jun 89	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Sep 89	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Dec 89	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Mar 90	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Jun 90	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Sep 90	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Dec 90	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Mar 91	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Jun 91	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Sep 91	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Dec 91	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Mar 92	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Jun 92	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Sep 92	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Dec 92	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Mar 93	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Jun 93	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Sep 93	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Dec 93	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Mar 94	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Jun 94	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Sep 94	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Dec 94	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Mar 95	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Jun 95	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Sep 95	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Dec 95	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Mar 96	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Jun 96	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Sep 96	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Dec 96	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Mar 97	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Jun 97	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Sep 97	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Dec 97	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Mar 98	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Jun 98	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Sep 98	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Dec 98	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Mar 99	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Jun 99	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Sep 99	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Dec 99	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Mar 00	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
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Dec 03	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Mar 04	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Jun 04	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Sep 04	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Dec 04	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Mar 05	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Jun 05	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Sep 05	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Dec 05	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Mar 06	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Jun 06	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Sep 06	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Dec 06	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Mar 07	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Jun 07	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Sep 07	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Dec 07	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Mar 08	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Jun 08	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Sep 08	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Dec 08	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Mar 09	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Jun 09	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Sep 09	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Dec 09	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
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Jun 10	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Sep 10	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Dec 10	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Mar 11	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Jun 11	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Sep 11	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Dec 11	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Mar 12	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Jun 12	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
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Jun 13	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Sep 13	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Dec 13	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Mar 14	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Jun 14	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Sep 14	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Dec 14	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Mar 15	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Jun 15	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Sep 15	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Dec 15	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Mar 16	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Jun 16	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Sep 16	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Dec 16	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Mar 17	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Jun 17	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Sep 17	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Dec 17	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Mar 18	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Jun 18	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Sep 18	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
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Mar 19	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
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Sep 21	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Dec 21	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Mar 22	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Jun 22	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Sep 22	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Dec 22	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544
Mar 23	91.39	91.40	91.32	91.32	2544



# Sea change at the resort

Famous with holidaymakers for more than two centuries, Brighton is at last catering for seafarers, with a great marina, nearing completion. But the going has not all been easy

Brighton has a new claim to fame. Apart from having some of the finest Regency buildings in the land, a warren of quaint lanes and a mock oriental pavilion that has given a swagger to the town for more than two centuries, the Brighton Marina is being transformed from white elephant into one of Europe's biggest yachting centres.

The fact is that Brighton always had a lot to offer the landlubber visitors who teem into the place but nothing for the seafarers.

With the crowded waters and marinas of the Solent and the Hamble to demonstrate the rapidly growing enthusiasm for water sports, the idea of creating a marina at Brighton seemed to make good commercial sense.

The Brighton Marina Act received Royal Assent in 1968 six years after the idea for a yacht harbour had entered the mind of Henry Cohen, a local businessman, who pursued the scheme. Five big financial institutions agreed to back the project. The original consortium comprised the National Westminster Bank, Royal Insurance Company, Electricity Council, Superannuation Funds, Westmoreland Properties and EMI. They raised over £50 million, which the marina has so far cost.

The Brighton Marina Act allowed the borough of Brighton to buy the foreshore and seabed at Black Rock on the Rottingdean side of town from the Crown.

The harbour would cover 126 acres enclosed by two breakwaters and moorings for

2,000 boats. Land reclaimed within the harbour would carry 1,000 flats and houses and parking for 6,000 cars. Also included was a sports and entertainment centre, shopping centre, hotel and conference complex, a yacht club and restaurants.

Building began in November 1971 with a sea wall that was pushed out over the entire length of the site, nearly 200ft from the high-water mark.

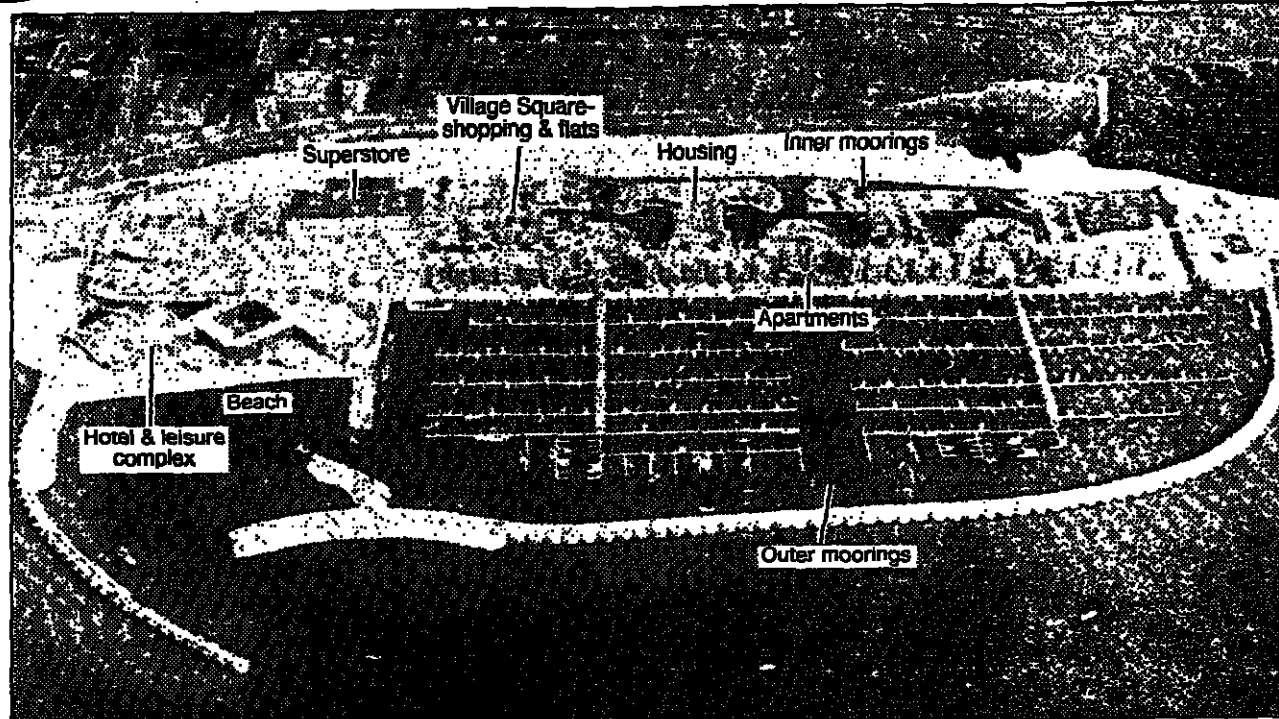
Construction ploughed on through the 1970s with the scheme at the mercy of the elements, and to an equal degree at the mercy of the planning system.

The worst of the weather came in September 1974 with a 17-hour storm that undermined part of the East Breakwater foundations, marooning the huge crane being used to lift the 625-tonne caissons into position. This caused a delay of five months. The next month a planning inquiry was

## Stagnant swamp filled in and sold for £10m

held into the scheme after the Secretary of State for the Environment had called in the approval. This led to a further 18 months' delay. Final approval was given by the minister, subject to some modifications that reduced the total of residential units and put a height limit on the buildings.

The Queen opened the marina on the last day of May 1979 as a huge armada of sailing craft and powerboats assembled on the moorings behind the protection of the



Pointing the way ahead: George Walker, above, the chairman of Brent Walker, bought the ailing development for £13 million and expanded its potential. Left: the planners' vision of the new marina

two gracefully snaking concrete arms.

The project had survived all that the elements and bureaucracy could throw at it but the economic climate of the late 1970s did not encourage the stockholders to carry the scheme to the next stage. They turned for advice to George Walker, chairman of the Brent Walker leisure and property group. He had impressed them by converting a leisure scheme in Essex from loss to profit.

The Brighton project, after such heavy investment, was simply not providing the right level of return. The net result of Walker's visit to the marina 18 months ago was that his company bought the development lock, stock and sea wall for £13 million and drew up an immediate financial and development package that would establish the marina on a profitable financial course.

The plan was altered to provide less water and more

land that could carry development and also to take the concept of the marina community and leisure centre to a far more ambitious level. This has not meant radical changes to the basic structure of the scheme but has transformed its potential profitability.

One small corner of the site, swamped by stagnant water, was filled in and sold for £10 million to the Dea Corporation as the site of a Carrefour hypermarket. The building is now emerging along with the first housing development, by Barratt's, designed to reflect the Brighton's elegant Regency buildings.

By the early 1990s the Brighton Marina Village will be completed and about 700 luxury residential properties established alongside an international hotel, sports and leisure complex, including a water theme park and multi-screen cinema, health hydro, superstore and range of conventional shops, restaurants and cafes in a village square.

## Jolly refuge for modern sailors



Yachts in the marina, Britain's biggest and the largest in Europe

Yachtsmen are a gregarious lot. They may enjoy the challenge of a solitary thrash to windward across the Channel, returning, if they are lucky, with the breeze ripening their sails in an exhilarating run, but there are few pleasures more positive than telling someone about the adventure.

Along the south coast this is just as well. Sailing enthusiasts there are obliged by the enormous pressure on mooring space, in such sailing centres as the Solent, to be gregarious.

The original idea of building a yacht harbour at Brighton was logical and sound. There are few places of secure shelter between there and Dover and nowhere with substantial facilities for enthusiasts to base their craft.

The practical theory of building yacht marinas came from America and spread rapidly in Britain.

Brighton may claim to be the most important development in the United Kingdom, giving a base from which the owners of the largest craft can step aboard at any state of the tide and head out for a sail.

This deep-water advantage avoids the traditional English necessity of wading through mud or rowing out to a trot of sailing craft moored in an estuary — a romantic process but one that is easily forgotten when the convenience of a

marina is at hand. Brighton has attracted a wide selection of sailing craft, from the kind of cruiser that follows in pasting pursuit of a family saloon to the latest in gin palaces. There are traditional gaff-rigged cutters and the die-stamped plastic vessels that have made sailing such a massively popular sport.

There may be some fears that such a massive development on the east end of Brighton will draw interest and trade away from the town centre, but those who believe that argument are considered too protectionist or pessimistic.

The marinas will bring at least 4,000 visiting boats into Brighton a year, half of them from the Continent. With France only a night's cruise away (Fecamp lies 68 miles to the south-east) the marina is bound to generate even more cross-channel traffic.

The necessary property development has cut the original 2,200 yacht berths to 1,900, but the marina still ranks as the biggest in Britain and among the largest in Europe.

Its position in the price scale ranks midway between the rivers Solent and Medway. A berth will cost about £115 a square metre a year, VAT included.

A great attraction to sailors is the fact that 200 miles of French coastline are within a 12-hour sail of Brighton, far more than from any other British port.

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EVEN WHEN THE DESIGN CALLED FOR STANDARD SHAPED BRICKS, THE SPECIFIERS STILL REQUIRED SOMETHING SPECIAL.

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WHATEVER YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT BRICKS (AND CLAY PAVINGS) TALK TO THE BLOCKLEYS TECHNICAL TEAM FIRST.

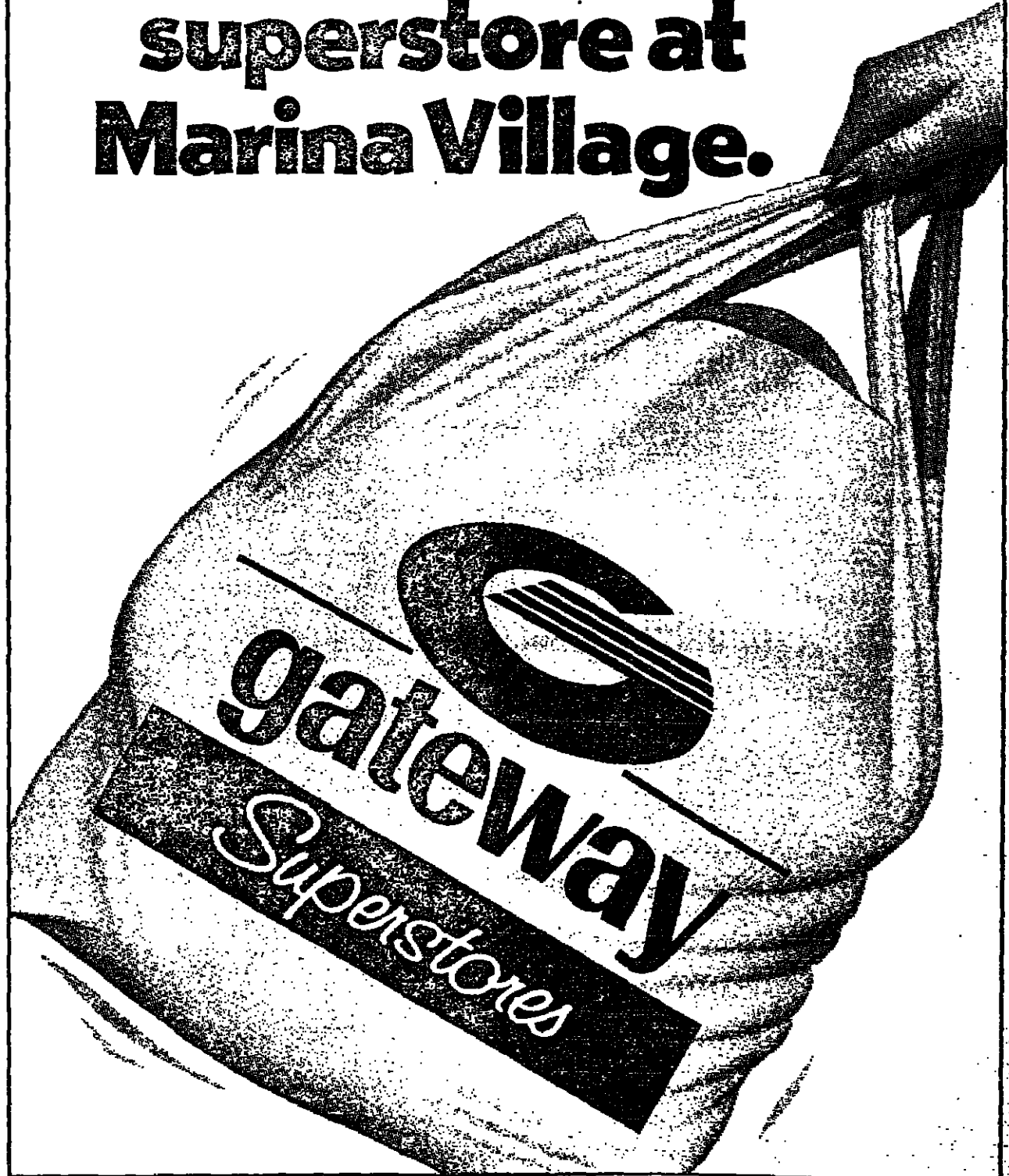
YOU'LL FIND IT'S NOT JUST IN BRIGHTON THAT WE'RE AT THE FRONT.



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## Brighton will be bagsful better off with a stunning new state-of-the-art superstore at Marina Village.



مكتزا من الأصل



## The latter-day Venice rising in the South

I was probably the Venetians who best developed the idea of a town with waterways where most towns have roads. That was centuries ago and Venice, according to gloomy calculation, is quietly sinking into the sea — just as the Brighton Marina rises from it, underpinned and protected by all the devices of modern civil engineering, but following the Regency lines for which old Brighton is famous.

The broad, lateral causeway running from the marina entrance to the eastern lock will, when completed in the early 1990s, carry more than 700 attractively designed homes.

From the causeway, six promontories will create a series of lagoons around which will be studios, apartments, penthouses and townhouses, some with their own doorstep mooring. The yachting buffs of Brighton will be able to step aboard from their own quay and set off out to sea. Barratt's, the builders of the marina village, say the first one- and two-bedroom flats, built in the heart of the development as part of the "village square" complex, will be ready by July.

The aim is to create a lively and attractive environment with a wide range of leisure, sport and shopping facilities close at hand. The square will have paved areas, plenty of trees and a choice of shops, restaurants and bistros.

Barratt's say the first group of 123 flats built to luxury specification, will cost from £60,000 for one-bedroom properties and from about £80,000 for those with two bedrooms.

The first homes will be part of the first block, designed by the Mason Richards Partnership in an hexagonal design around the "village" square.

Some flats, which range from 500 to 1,000sq ft, have ensuite shower-rooms to the master bedrooms. All have car park space and mooring.

In addition, Barratt's will be building 97 houses and 600 apartments with first occupations by early 1988. The three-storey houses will have up to five bedrooms. The apartments and penthouses along the central spine of the marina will have views over the outer harbour and each property will have first option on a mooring and parking.

The company reports an early lively interest in the various commercial operations offering shopping and eating facilities and the marina's leisure complex, the size of six football pitches, will comprise four indoor tennis courts, six squash courts, water theme park, multi-screen cinema, nightclub, casino and first class hotel.

The central feature planned for this development is a huge atrium containing coffee shop,

there were horror stories of marinas built in exposed positions breaking up.

If Brighton was to have a marina there was no escaping the fact that it would have to be a hugely muscular structure to withstand weight of wind, wave and tide.

The huge breakwaters were formed by 110 circular caissons, each weighing 625 tonnes that were manoeuvred into position and "planted" by a 1,200-tonne crane and each sealed on to the chalk seabed with 1,000 tonnes of quick-setting concrete.

The months of work extended into the stormy season and in September 1974 a Force 11 gale lasting 17 hours caused the foundations of two of the circular caissons to slip, marooning the crane. The subsequent delay cost five invaluable months of construction time.

Building the sea walls took five years, but in April 1976, the last caisson was put into place and 12,000 additional concrete structures, each weighing six tonnes, were placed in position to give extra protection where the worst ravages of the sea could be expected.

Within the arms of the marina work was already under way and each week 1,500 lorry loads of infill rumbled on to the site, one arriving every two minutes.

The hard work was complete but it was quickly apparent that a harbour for around 2,000 boats even in the prosperous southern counties and less than an hour by rail from central London, would not generate the scale of revenue to justify such a heavy investment. Few doubted the excellence of the facility for yachtsmen. What was urgently required was an extra dynamic to make the scheme financially viable.

There is every confidence that this dynamic has been achieved.



A dream comes true: After years of worry and setback, the multi-million pound Brighton Marina is entering a new stage. Yachts fill the inner harbour and in July the first apartment houses will be ready. Later will come a supermarket, hotel and health hydro

## The old pro with an eye for property

George Walker works hard at leisure. The former Billingsgate porter and world-class light heavyweight has brought a fighter's eye for advantage into the multi-million pound business of how people spend their free time.

As chairman of the Brent Walker Corporation he has piled on the pressure with an impressive list of projects, including the Basildon Astrodome in Essex, a £30 million covered stadium that will rival Houston, in Texas; four square miles of man-made island off Southend, Essex, where he owns the famous pier, that will become a yacht haven; elegant canal-side hotels, seven golf courses, squash courts, nightclubs and casinos and a host of other film, video and leisure interests.

Where people go for recreation it would seem that Mr Walker aims to be not far behind them. The company has doubled pre-tax profits, turnover has shot past £15 million and promises to maintain a steep climb, and the current market value is more than £60 million.

The jewel in the Brent Walker crown will be the Brighton Marina, a spectacular turn-round for a venture that had been deemed a failure but which is now expected to be earning more than £10 million a year by the early 1990s.

He first set eyes on the marina about 18 months ago, looking down

on the development from the minor spaghetti junction which syphons traffic from cliff top to seashore.

A few first impressions were scribbled down as an *aide-memoire*; what he would do if he owned the site.

About a year later he did own it and the scribbles became a blueprint.

With hindsight, there is little doubt that Mr Walker acquired rather more than a bargain. "I did my sums and could hardly believe the answers. It seemed astonishing that no one had

### Reclaimed land for a superstore

already thought of the idea," he said.

The fact was that some £53 million had already been spent building the curving sweep of breakwaters sheltering the pontoon berths, a swathe of land reclaimed from the sea and an elaborate system of access roads.

But at that stage the prospect did not please. The landward lagoon was too far from the circulating water so that areas had turned stagnant.

Fill in the smelly bits and build on the reclaimed land, he theorized with a busy scribble. Reality proved even better. The land reclaimed from the smelly bits went to the Dee Corporation for a superstore which will be a double-edged attraction, bringing out-

siders into the marina and serving the resident community.

Where the original scheme had pontoons on the inner harbour, the Brent Walker scheme has elegantly styled flats and maisonettes set around a group of lagoons.

On the 12 acres of empty space to the west on the marina, Mr Walker plans to bring his leisure industry into force with squash courts, indoor tennis courts, bowling centres, a health hydro, huge water theme park and a hotel paid for by the housing development.

As for the yachting facilities, they were excellent and did not need any major change.

This almost impertinent success has not been resented by the original investors who sold out to Brent Walker without handing on any of the liabilities the scheme had incurred over the years.

Mr Walker said: "There have been no sour grapes. As one of the investors said to me, their business was lending money not running marinas and quite simply they saw me as the right man for the job."

Apart from the chairman's basic faith in a human liking for messing about on, in, or near water, the company's optimism is also founded on a booming interest in the sports for which it caters, more leisure time and

more spare cash floating around the economy for leisure spending.

Success for Brent Walker has not been entirely plain sailing, however, and the company made a colourful exit from the stock market in the early 1980s after a disastrous investment in a hotel development in Egypt, tumbling profits and a wrangle with Joan Collins over two films, *The Stud* and *The Bitch*, in which it had a stake.

Mr Walker is now aged 58 and his rugged features are a monument, proud he would say, to his past as a

### He enjoys challenges, including ocean races

professional boxer. His younger brother, Billy, the "Golden Boy" champion, followed the same path, helped by George who many considered to be the stronger fighter.

"Perhaps my problem was that I reached my peak in the days before the big television coverage, the big deals and contracts," he said.

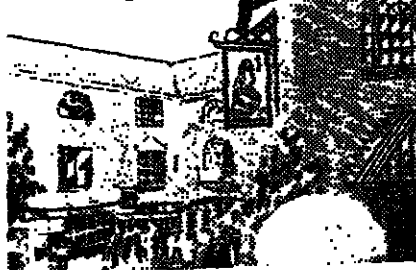
He last fought in 1953 and since then developed a wide interest in leisure sport. His 50ft schooner, *Rich Harvest*, is named after a racehorse which had 22 wins in the 1950s and was owned by his father. Enjoying challenges, he has competed in some of the toughest ocean races. "I was," he says, "a gorilla up on the foredeck."

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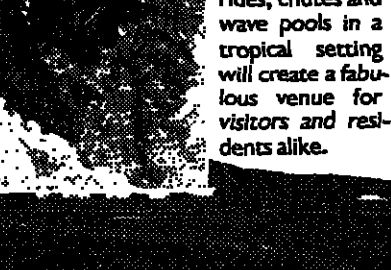
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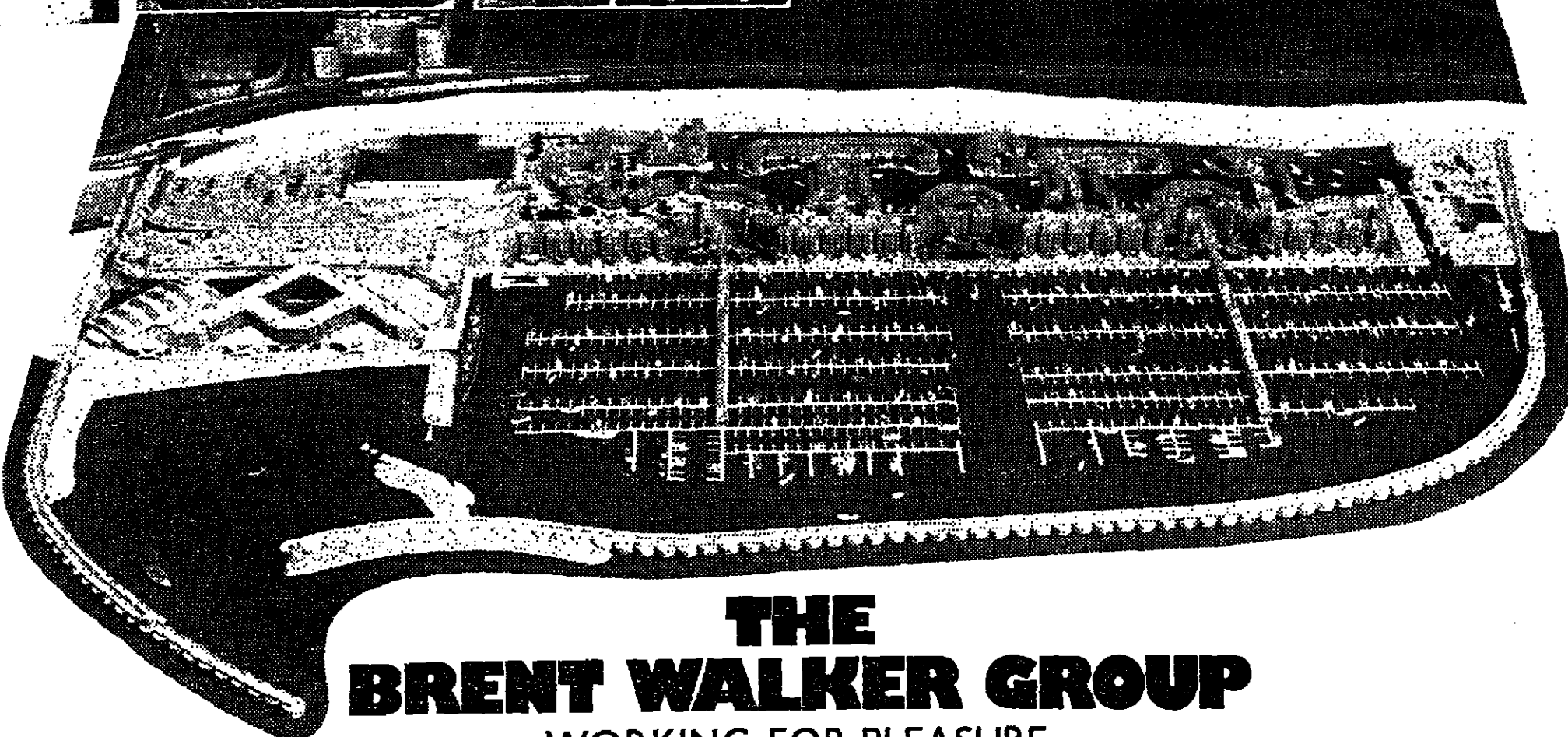
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# A doubling of guarantees

By Derek Harris

The Government's loan guarantee scheme, relaunched a year ago with more attractive interest terms for small businesses, is now seeing almost a doubling in the number of guarantees issued. The value of loans is up by about 130 per cent.

But there is clearly a long way to go before the LGS regains its original impetus when loans issued were running at about 400 a month, until tougher terms were introduced and cut down applications. Recently, loans issued have been running at rather less than a third of that rate.

Under the LGS, loans, substantially guaranteed by the Government, are made by banks to small businesses which would not otherwise measure up to bank criteria for a loan or overdraft. The aim

has been to help create more small businesses and so produce more jobs.

A new analysis of the scheme's performance in 1986 shows a steady growth in the number of guarantees issued, rising from 251 in the first quarter to 304 in the final three months. In the year 1,050 guarantees were issued compared with 542 the year before.

Value of the loans last year amounted to £40.4 million, compared with £17.7 million in 1985.

In March and April guarantees issued totalled just under 240. That, compared with 144 in the comparable months of last year, just before the interest rate premium was reduced to 2.5 per cent above base rate.

But a steady improvement is being expected this year. Mr David Trippier, minister for small businesses at the Department of Employment, has been travelling to a series of regional meetings with bank managers to press home the message that the policy of all the key banks is now to expand use of the scheme. Messages on video to this effect from the heads of the high street banks reinforced the message.

The latest analysis also points to the continued expectation that the failure rates among infant businesses set up with LGS help has come down from one in three to one in four. Case histories from 1984 onwards indicate that after three years businesses are likely to have a 25 per cent failure rate.

# Say cheese when you take to the hills

By Veronica Heath

Hill farming means harsh economics, but one farmer is reviving an old Northumbrian skill in his battle for economic survival.

Mark Robertson, and his Dutch-born wife, Marijke, who live at the Soppit farm near Otterburn, decided they must expand into something which they could relate to and enjoy doing. Mr Robertson said: "We had been Dutch farmers in Friesland, milking sheep and selling the produce in the form of curd quarks and other cheeses. The sheep looked content and the dairies were spotless. We thought there might be a market for that sort of thing up here."

They started the venture in 1984, milking ewes in a corner of their farm yard. They had 800 mules and blackies, both types of sheep native to the district, but soon realised that they were not going to be prolific enough milkers. They went back to The Netherlands where the Dutch dairy men were exceedingly helpful. "Of course we were not a threat to them," he said. "So they showed us everything - shared their recipes and advised us on equipment." In Holland, farm units are small and the terrain difficult in the 550 acres of marginal hill land that the Robertsons farm. But the farm was already being run on organic principles, with stock grazing old pastures full of herbs and natural goodness, which would be reflected in the end products.

The environmental health office of Tynedale District Council was helpful. The stables were converted into a dairy with a renovation grant from Cosia (Council for Small Industries in Rural

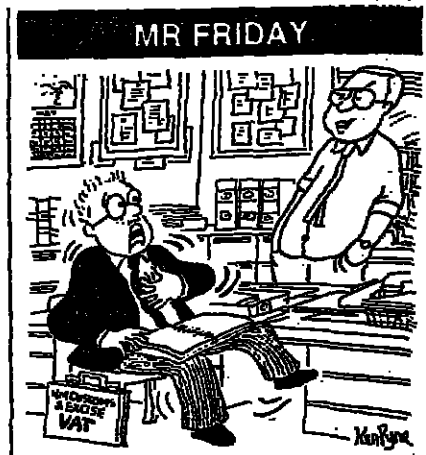


Mark Robertson: 'Getting to the core of the matter'

Areas). They bought a cheese vat from Holland, a press, a variety of moulds and a French brand of electric milker. By mid-summer 1985, they were in business, selling their first yoghurts and cheeses at the farm gate.

That December the Ministry of Agriculture changed their grant policies to cover tourism and craft ventures, so the Robertsons obtained a conversion for a shop and a tea room.

Gradually, the blackface sheep gave way to Friesian crosses which tend to lamb all year round with a prolific lactation. Currently, they have a flock of 80 Dutch Friesian and cross-Friesians. The breakthrough came when Mr Robertson was invited by Harrods to attend a Sheep Milk Products week. "It was a very rewarding experience," he



MR FRIDAY  
"Telling the likes of you how many hours I work is the only fun I ever get"

said. "I made contact with the British Sheep Dairy Association who gave me advice and encouragement. We knocked on doors and laid the foundation for several good long-term orders."

Last year the Northumbrian cheese farm had 3,000 visitors and the Robertsons now average a turnover of 40 cheeses a week the year round. About half are sold through local delicatessens and the rest are sent to London by overnight express.

In the cheese maturing room there shelves of mellowing Redestales and Goudas as well as the best-selling Coquette and Coquette are evocative names, relating to the district. Most of the cheeses take three or four months to mature.

In the height of the summer season the small shop sells home-made cakes, quarks, biscuits and drinks, yoghurts and quark, which is a lactic curd cheese. Cheese condition is checked with a cheese iron. The hollow, sharp top is plunged into the maturing cheese and then withdrawn so that the cheesemaker can judge what is going on inside. The plug is reinserted without damage. But after a while a cheese man learns what is going on by the weight and smell and feel of his product, as well as by coring.

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Law Report May 15 1987 House of Lords

Judge's medical theory not proven

**Kay v Ayrshire and Arran Health Board**  
Before Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook, Lord Griffiths, Lord MacKay of Clashfern and Lord Ackner  
[Judgment May 14]  
The death of a child who had been negligently given an overdose of penicillin for pneumococcal meningitis could not be said to have been caused by the overdose if there was no evidence to prove whether or not he was deaf before the overdose was administered. The deafness must, on the weight of the evidence, have resulted solely from his meningitis and his claim for damages in respect of the deafness failed.  
The House of Lords so held dismissing an appeal by Mr James L. Kay, suing Ayrshire and Arran Health Board as tutor and administrator-at-law of his child Andrew Stuart Kay.  
Mr Ronald N. M. MacLean, QC and Mr Iain Bonny (both of the Scottish Bar) for Mr Kay; Mr J. A. Cameron, QC and Mr Lynda Clark (both of the Scottish Bar) for the board.  
LORD KEITH said that on November 28, 1975 the child, aged two years and five months was admitted to hospital. He was diagnosed as suffering from pneumococcal meningitis. The consultant paediatrician in charge instructed that 10,000 units of penicillin be injected intrathecally. By mistake the house officer injected 300,000 units of penicillin.  
The child went into convulsions and later developed hemiparesis, that is, paralysis on one side of his body. The immediate ill-effects of the overdose were surmounted and a rapid recovery from meningitis followed.  
He was discharged from hospital on December 24. His parents before then had begun to suspect that he was suffering from deafness. That proved to be the case.  
The action was tried before Lord Davidson. The Lord Ordinary decided that the deafness had been contributed to by the overdose. He awarded damages of £102,000.  
The board reclaimed, and their motion for review was heard by the First Division (Lord Emslie, Lord President, Lord Grieve and Lord Kingrie). They allowed it, holding that Andrew's deafness had not been proved to have been related causally to the overdose. They reduced the damages to £7,275.  
The board reclaimed, and their motion for review was heard by the First Division (Lord Emslie, Lord President, Lord Grieve and Lord Kingrie). They allowed it, holding that Andrew's deafness had not been proved to have been related causally to the overdose. They reduced the damages to £7,275.

The principal reason why the First Division decided as they did was that they found that the Lord Ordinary, in holding that the overdose caused the deafness, had proceeded on a theory of causation propounded by himself, which had not been spoken to by any of the medical witnesses and had not been suggested to any of them so that they might express an opinion on its validity.  
The Lord Ordinary's approach proceeded on the basis that, but for the overdose of penicillin, Andrew's prospects of recovering from the meningitis without suffering deafness were reasonably good. It was not suggested that he was not deaf before the overdose was administered.  
As the judges of the First Division pointed out, the evidence likewise indicated that the deafness was not caused by the overdose, but by the meningitis. There was no evidence either way.  
The factor was of some significance because medical knowledge indicated that deafness, if it materialized as a sequela of meningitis, was likely to do so at an early stage of the disease.  
On November 28 and 29 the disease appeared to have been at its height. After that the meningitis cleared up rapidly. Although no firm inferences could be drawn, if the deafness was already passed its peak when the overdose was administered, and thus passed the stage when deafness was most likely to occur, it was not easy to see how the overdose could be held to have increased the prospects of deafness.  
Medical knowledge clearly demonstrated that deafness was a common sequela of meningitis. It occurred in a third of all cases of pneumococcal meningitis and prospects of full recovery free of sequelae were better in children aged between six months and two and a half years.  
The weight of the evidence in the present case, as the judges of the First Division found, was that the deafness was caused by the meningitis, and that there was no causal connection between the deafness and the overdose of penicillin.  
Lord Brandon agreed and Lord Griffiths, Lord MacKay and Lord Ackner delivered concurring judgments.  
Solicitors: Howard Kennedy for Kay; McRae, Glasgow and John G. Gray & Co. Edinburgh; Lawrence Graham for the Board, Scottish Health Service.

**Intoximeter printout not required on guilty plea**  
**Regina v Tower Bridge Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate, Ex parte Director of Public Prosecutions**  
Before Lord Justice May and Mr Justice Macpherson  
[Judgment May 13]  
Where a defendant pleaded guilty to a charge of driving with excess blood alcohol, contrary to section 6 of the Road Traffic Act 1972 (as substituted in Schedule 8 to the Transport Act 1981), justices were not entitled to insist on the production to the court of the original printout of the Lion Intoximeter.  
It had therefore been an improper exercise of discretion for a stipendiary magistrate to invite a defendant to change his plea to not guilty and, upon his doing so, to dismiss the information.  
The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held, granting an application by the Director of Public Prosecutions for judicial review by way of certiorari to quash an order of the Tower Bridge Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate, Mr David Voelcker, on July 29, 1986, that a plea of not guilty be entered in respect of a charge under section 6 of the 1972 Act against the defendant, Mr Thomas John McCarthy, that the prosecution proceeded with the summary trial of the charge and that the prosecution being unable to adduce any evidence, the information be dismissed. The court also granted two declarations.  
Mr Jeremy Carter-Manning, for the applicant.  
MR JUSTICE MACPHERSON said that the defendant had pleaded guilty before justices and, in accordance with what had apparently become the practice of the Tower Bridge Magistrates' Court, they had asked to see the original printout of the Intoximeter. Upon the prosecutor informing them that only a certified copy was available, the justices adjourned the hearing for one day for the original to be produced.  
The next day, upon the prosecutor informing the stipendiary magistrate before whom the case had been called that it had not been possible to obtain the original, the magistrate had said that it would be grossly unfair to the defendant to adjourn again and that he was not willing to let the matter proceed as a guilty plea in the absence of the printout. He had thereupon invited the defendant to change his plea, which he had done, and the prosecutor being unable to offer any evidence, had dismissed the information.  
Although the practice of inspecting the printout in order to check the calibration and readings were correct had its good qualities, in particular, it was not suggested that there was no need for the original to be produced on a guilty plea in such a case.  
The best possible evidence of guilt was a guilty plea, and it was not necessary as a matter of law for either the original or a copy of the printout to be produced to the court, although as a matter of courtesy a prosecutor should have the original available for the court to see if it wished.  
The magistrate had exercised his discretion improperly: the court could and should have proceeded to sentence. *Certiorari* would issue to quash the stipendiary magistrate's decision, but in view of the time which had elapsed since the error had occurred through no fault of the defendant, the case would not be remitted to the justices for sentence.  
There would be declarations that it had been an improper exercise of the court's discretion in the circumstances to insist on the production of the original printout, to order a change of plea, to refuse a further adjournment and to dismiss the charge.  
Lord Justice May agreed.  
Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Inner London.

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Expatriate poised for key role in Rugby Union's World Cup

Gallagher awaits call for All Black duty

By Chris Than  
John Gallagher, the 23-year-old Wellington policeman, after a breathtaking display in the final All Black trial in Vangard at the weekend, has become the front runner to wear the No. 15 jersey in the opening match of the 1987 World Cup between New Zealand and Italy.  
Gallagher, a former pupil of St Joseph's Academy, Blackheath, became an All Black during last year's tour of France when he played at centre in four provincial matches.  
His pace and size makes him a fearsome sight when coming into the line at full speed and if the New Zealand selectors opt for the safety of Grant Fox's kicking, then Gallagher seems the natural choice at full back ahead of the more conservative Kieran Crowley.  
"My selection for last year's tour of France came a bit as a surprise, I have to admit. I was the dark horse. This year, however, I feel the pressure even more. The full back position was one of the very few up for grabs in the trial so I could not afford to play badly."  
Indeed he had hardly put a foot wrong and his scorching runs from defence as well as in attack brought him a try for the probabilities and the universal acclaim of the media.  
Gallagher - another name in the ever-increasing list of players who perform well away from the dark horse of the All Blacks, like Jamie Salmon, Rob Andrew, Peter Williams and Tony O'Malley - is convinced that he would never have reached top international honours had he stayed with either London Irish or the Askeans.  
"When I left school, I had the opportunity to go to New Zealand, invited by the Oriental-Rongotai club in Wellington. I enjoyed the experience and have decided to stay. I don't know what my evolution in England would have been like but I am pretty sure that I would not have made the English team because of the way the game is structured there."



Prime mover: Gallagher has claims on the full back position after an impressive trial (Photograph: Hugh Routledge)

Carr sends his best to team as they leave

By George Ace  
A team colour photograph in an Irish morning newspaper which carried a World Cup supplement this week included Nigel Carr in the picture. A terrorist car bomb close to the Irish border which cost the lives of a Northern Ireland High Court judge and his wife and left Carr with head, rib, leg and ankle injuries, forced him to withdraw from the party which left Dublin yesterday on the first stage of the great adventure in the Southern Hemisphere.  
Fortunately, Carr's two travelling companions on that fateful Saturday morning, a few weeks ago, David Irwin and Phillip Rainey, escaped serious injury, and left yesterday. But Carr had fully earned his place in the Ireland squad and it is a picture that will occupy an honoured place in the family album.  
Non-participation in the inaugural World Cup competition for whatever reason after one has won selection is bound to cause immense disappointment; in the case of Carr it combines personal disappointment with an overwhelming sense of revulsion that a young man selected to play for an Ireland team in a world event and en route to a training session in Dublin should be a victim of such a dastardly action. It defies logical thinking.  
Nigel Carr is not bitter. "I am very fortunate to be alive," he said yesterday. "Disappointed naturally, but when I look back on what happened I have a lot to be thankful for. I am looking forward to watching the games on television and I hope the lads do well; I have a feeling they will."

Carr's right ankle is still in plaster and will be for another three or four weeks but "the bumps and bruises have all but disappeared and my cracked ribs are clearly on the mend."  
Paul Thorburn gave his team colleagues a boost yesterday confirming his fitness before the Welsh squad departed yesterday. The Neath full back, aged 24, missed the later stages of last season after breaking a collar-bone against France in Paris in February.  
Thorburn said: "Of course I had my worries about making the World Cup at one time, but now it has happened I have no worries."  
There was good news too for Scotland, who flew out to Auckland with the Welsh and Irish parties. John Rutherford, who suffered a knee injury in Bermuda last month, was given a clean bill of health.

Trick, Paul O'Donnell and company, he flew further East to Wellington where he was met by Gallagher.  
"I was lucky to have the chance to come over and I wanted Tony to give it a try as well. I think that he has done pretty well, if you think that he has already had his first game for the Wellington provincial side two weeks ago."  
"In England, there are twice as many players as in New Zealand. There is an excuse for not being just as good."

Sydney a week tomorrow, although Lynagh's knee injury is still troubling him. Jones said on Sunday, when naming his 26-Squad, that worries over injuries to key players meant he had opted for all-rounders. One of those mentioned, Peter Grigg, replaces Campese, and Michael Cook claims his second cap in the centre against the Koreans.  
Smith, who will also take over Lynagh's goal-kicking role, guaranteed his place with a fine display for Queensland against New South Wales.  
All three are likely to recover in time for the England game in

Lafond blow for France

Blanco had been made the main kicker.  
Australia's coach, Alan Jones, highlighted the versatility of his squad when he named a scrum-half, Brian Smith, to play fly-half in tomorrow's international against South Korea in Brisbane. Smith will make his debut after injuries forced Jones to leave out Michael Lynagh, David Campese and Brett Papworth.  
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La Crème de la Crème and other secretarial appointments. Property: Residential, Town & Country, Overseas, Rentals, with editorial. Antiques and Collectables. (Monthly) Creative & Media Communication: Appointments to the Media Marketing & Creative Industries with informed Editorial.

THURSDAY  
General Appointments: Management and Executive appointments with editorial. Career Horizons. La Crème de la Crème and other secretarial appointments.

FRIDAY  
Motors: A complete car buyer's guide with editorial. Business to Business: Business opportunities, franchises, etc. with editorial. Restaurant Guide. (Monthly)

SATURDAY  
Overseas and UK Holidays: Villas/Cottages, Hotels, Flights, etc.

THE WORLD FAMOUS PERSONAL COLUMN, INCLUDING RENTALS, APPEARS EVERY DAY.

Fill in the coupon and attach it to your advertisement, written on a separate piece of paper, allowing 28 letters and spaces per line.  
Rates are: Lineage £4 per line (min. 3 lines); Boxed Display £23 per single column centimetre; Court & Social £6 per line. All rates are subject to 15% VAT.  
Send to: Shirley Margolis, Group Classified Advertisement Manager, Times Newspapers Ltd., PO Box 484, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone (Daytime) \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of insertion (Please allow three working days prior to insertion date.) \_\_\_\_\_

Use your Access, Visa, AMEX or Diners cards.

MONDAY  
Education: University Appointments, Prep & Public School Appointments, Educational Courses, Scholarships and Fellowships, Career Horizons. La Crème de la Crème and other secretarial appointments.

TUESDAY  
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# TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear and Peter Davale

## All the world's a studio...

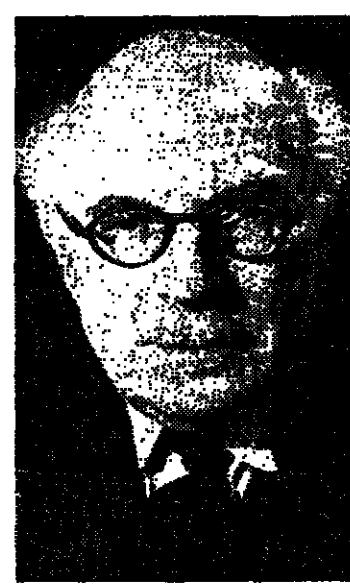
### CHOICE

● Taxi drivers ask Federico Fellini why he makes films people cannot understand and the answer, basically, is that he does not make films for people but for himself. Interviewed by Gavin Millar, the maestro plays close to his chest, aesthetically speaking, seldom giving a plain answer when a philosophical one will do. The philosophy is often elusive. The programme's sub-title, *Real Dreams*, is as good a clue as any, for Fellini's reality is rarely on the surface. Hints of a concrete world do filter through periodically in his childhood yearning to break free of the twin repressions of fascism and Catholicism. But Fellini's world is contained within himself and is constructed in the movie stage. He speaks of the joy of filling an empty stage with sets and characters and says any social

or political anger is merely an excuse to get behind the camera. He starts a film by pinning up images on a blank noticeboard, waiting for the ideas to come. He once found himself without a subject, so he made a film about a director who didn't know what to direct. That was 8%. At the time, it seemed the ultimate Fellini film, denying the possibility of any monomaniacal quest for the truth, finding it as much in fantasy as in fact. If, as he says, the cinema is a complete art, Fellini has done his bit to make it so. The programme also features Fellini's wife and long-time leading lady, Giulietta Masina.

Peter Waymark

● Peter Davale writes: Father and Daughter (Radio 4, 4.05pm). June Knox-Mawer's weekly probes into relationships that, up until now, have been easier to define in print than on air, continue with some insights into both the publishing house and family home of Gollancz. Livia took over the firm after father Victor's death. She displays a sturdy independence of spirit, thinking of herself as herself more than as her father's daughter. And her objectivity even extends so far as to deplore her father's puerile marketing methods of publicising his publications by printing on those famous yellow jackets surmises as to what eminent critics might have written about the books, given the chance. In marked contrast, Livia Gollancz, a former horn player, never once blows her own trumpet.



Victor Gollancz: Father and Daughter (Radio 4, 4.05pm)

### VARIATIONS

**BBC1** **Wales:** 6.35pm-6.00pm Wales Today 6.35-7.00pm Sportsman 7.00-7.30pm News and weather. **SCOTLAND:** 10.30-11.00pm News and weather. **REPORTING SCOTLAND** 10.30-10.55pm The Scottish Government 11.00-11.30pm The Scottish Government 11.30-12.00pm News and weather. **WORTHINGTON** 12.40-12.45pm News. **WORTHINGTON** 12.45-1.15pm News. **WORTHINGTON** 1.15-1.30pm News. **WORTHINGTON** 1.30-1.45pm News. **WORTHINGTON** 1.45-2.00pm News. **WORTHINGTON** 2.00-2.15pm News. **WORTHINGTON** 2.15-2.30pm News. **WORTHINGTON** 2.30-2.45pm News. **WORTHINGTON** 2.45-3.00pm News. **WORTHINGTON** 3.00-3.15pm News. **WORTHINGTON** 3.15-3.30pm News. **WORTHINGTON** 3.30-3.45pm News. **WORTHINGTON** 3.45-4.00pm News. **WORTHINGTON** 4.00-4.15pm News. **WORTHINGTON** 4.15-4.30pm News. **WORTHINGTON** 4.30-4.45pm News. **WORTHINGTON** 4.45-5.00pm News. **WORTHINGTON** 5.00-5.15pm News. **WORTHINGTON** 5.15-5.30pm News. **WORTHINGTON** 5.30-5.45pm News. **WORTHINGTON** 5.45-6.00pm News. 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## Fijians expected in spite of coup

From Chris Than Auckland

Rugby Union officials have expressed the hope that the military coup in Fiji will not prevent the Fiji team from taking part in the World Cup, due to start in New Zealand and Australia next Friday.

The World Cup executive director, Mr Jim Campbell, said he hoped the Fiji team would arrive in Auckland tomorrow as expected.

The more cautious New Zealand Rugby Union chairman, Mr Russ Thomas, said he believed the Fiji team would turn up, though probably later than planned.

Late last night, Mr Thomas was still trying to contact Fiji rugby officials in Suva. He said no attempt had been made to approach Western Samoa - reported to be a possible replacement team - but if Fiji did not turn up, the Samoans would be told to stand by.

Fiji are due to play their first game on Sunday, May 24 against Argentina. It has been suggested that if they do turn up, they might come without their captain, Koli Rakovoi, a navy officer.

One Fiji source said the threat to replace Fiji with Western Samoa would be enough to ensure the team do compete. Besides, according to the Fiji consul in Auckland, the leader of the coup, Colonel Rannabhai, is a former Fiji Rugby Union representative, who apparently toured New Zealand several years ago.

● **BRISBANE:** England's World Cup players looked slightly the worse for wear when the squad arrived in Brisbane, exhausted after a 24-hour flight from Heathrow (AP reports). The coach, Martin Green, predicted a good showing from his team, even though they finished equal last in the Five Nations Championship.

The team manager, Mike Weston, gave the 26-man squad a light training run at the GPS club ground. "I want to try and keep them awake so they get a regular sleep pattern again."

## Ban of four months for Fowke

The Gloucester RFC wing forward Bobby Fowke has been banned for four months by the county disciplinary committee after being sent off for head-butting against Sydney last season.

The suspension is believed to be the longest imposed on a first class player by the Gloucestershire committee.

Fowke was dismissed by Manchester referee David Leslie for the offence against New Zealand forward Andy Kay, who needed 17 stitches in a head wound.

# Ferguson tempts McClair with a £600,000 offer

By Hugh Taylor

Manchester United last night made an offer of £600,000 for Brian McClair, Scotland's most prolific scorer, who has refused to re-sign the terms offered by Celtic and is ready to seek a future away from Parkhead.

The forward, aged 23, who is in line for the prestigious European Golden Boot award, has been leading scorer for his club in each of his four seasons since joining Celtic from Motherwell at a bargain price of £75,000.

Alex Ferguson, the United manager, has agreed not to open talks with McClair until after Scotland's international against Brazil on May 26. Yet McClair's decision opens the door to Ferguson as United desperately seek success again in the English first division. Also in the race to lure McClair will be several European clubs, including Paris St Germain, Monaco and Inter Milan.

Celtic will demand £1 mil-

lion for McClair, but may be forced to settle for less from United for fear of losing him at a cut price rate to Europe. Common Market agreements would limit the fee to £350,000.

The refusal of McClair to sign again is a massive blow to Celtic, who lost the Scottish league championship to their Rangers this season. David Hay, the manager, could not disguise his disappointment.

More football, page 33

following McClair's decision to reject what he described as "A contract that seemed to suit the player ideally."

But apparently the agreement fell short of the terms offered recently to the hedonistic Maurice Johnston, who is also certain to leave Celtic, go abroad and break up one of the most potent partnerships Scotland has known. Johnston was said to have refused to sign a contract

of £2,000 a week and perhaps Celtic were too late in offering that sum to McClair.

"Not so long ago, Brian said he would be happy to stay at Parkhead if we met his requirements," Hay said. "We have done so, yet he still does not want to re-sign."

And that, although McClair refused to comment yesterday, indicates that the graduate of Glasgow University will end his distinguished career at Parkhead, where he perhaps became disillusioned when his 25 league goals this season still did not lift the shadow of Johnston.

McClair, a down-to-earth exponent of the attacker's craft and a believer in scoring goals from the depth of the midfield, has long been admired by Ferguson, who said that his urgent priority is a striker capable of scoring at least 20 goals a season - a player United have failed to acquire since the halcyon days of George Best.

## Paris puts feeler out for Hoddle

By John Goodbody

Glenn Hoddle, the England midfield player who will make his farewell appearance for Tottenham Hotspur in tomorrow's FA Cup Final, is wanted by Paris St Germain, the 1985-86 French League champions.

Gerard Houllier, the St Germain manager, said yesterday: "We have already met Hoddle and Irving Scholar, the Tottenham chairman, on two occasions. I am a long-time admirer of the Englishman."

Francis Borelli, a flamboyant president of the club which has also won the French Cup twice in the 1980s, added: "We have looked at several players. Hoddle appears the ideal solution. He fits in with the sort of player we want."

Paris St Germain, who play at the National Stadium, the Parc des Princes, hope to link Hoddle with Paolo Futre, the FC Porto forward, in a deal to

## Lincoln players' deal

The Football League yesterday sanctioned a compromise deal between Lincoln City and the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) designed to prevent a mass exodus of players.

Under existing regulations, Lincoln stood to have all their players' registrations revert to the League following their relegation to the GM Vauxhall Conference. That would have left Lincoln with no control over the nine professionals on

their staff whose contracts extend beyond this summer.

But club officials, Gordon Taylor, the PFA secretary, and Mike Foster, the League registrations officer, have hammered out a solution.

The nine players involved will be given until July 15 to find another club. If they are successful the new club will have to pay Lincoln a realistic transfer fee or have it decided by an independent tribunal.

## Ajax triumph marred by a night of violence

Athens (Reuters) - Twelve policemen were hurt and 10 people arrested as celebrations in Amsterdam turned to violence in the wake of Ajax Amsterdam's 1-0 victory over Lokomotiv Leipzig in the final of the European Cup Winners' Cup in Athens on Wednesday night.

The match itself passed without incident but in Amsterdam police said thousands of pounds worth of damage was caused in the city centre, triggered by youths setting fire to a car.

It took police and riot control units until nearly 5am to restore order.

Although Ajax were unable to recreate fully the "total football" of their all-conquering predecessors of the 1970s, Johan Cruyff's young team did enough to show that they may one day match the teams

inspired by their technical director.

As their 8,000-strong army of supporters celebrated Marco Van Basten's 21st-minute goal in the bars and restaurants of Athens, Cruyff was stressing the importance of his team's playing style and their average age.

Cruyff said: "All Holland will be proud of us for winning this cup at last and with a team including so many young players. We won playing good, attractive football - like in the old days - and with no violence."

"I am especially pleased for the youngest players and my defence who contained experienced opponents."

"This is an important victory for Dutch football. We can build on it. Tactically, the game worked out as I expected."

## When the marathon seems just a doddle

By Pat Butcher, Athletics Correspondent

Eleanor Adams and Malcolm Campbell set out on a trek this morning, which makes last Sunday's Mars London Marathon look like a street sprint.

Adams and Campbell, two of the mainstays of British ultra-distance running, start the 1,000 miles New Balance Challenge, a little matter of 60 miles a day for 17 days from Nottingham County Hall at 11am today.

Their route takes them to Newcastle, Carlisle, Bristol, Brighton, and a finishing meander up the east side of the country, through London and Peterborough. They are expected back in Nottingham on June 1, when a trophy will be

presented to the one with the fastest accumulated time over the 17 days.

Campbell, aged 52, is not necessarily the favourite, although he is world record-holder for 1,000 miles on the track. 15days, 21hr, 5min, 59sec, which he did at Gateshead in 1985.

The longest run Adams, aged 39, has done is the 620 miles between Sydney and Melbourne, which she covered in 7days, 12 hours last year.

At distances like these, men's bodies deplete faster than women's. And Adams is faster at shorter distances, like 50 and 100 miles.



Smash hit: Steffi Graf, in front of her home crowd, on the way to a 6-0, 6-1 victory over her compatriot, Claudia Porwik, in the third round of the West German Open tennis championships in West Berlin yesterday. Lendl beaten in Italian Open by Nystrom, page 36

## Selectors will want to show faith in the winter's heroes

By John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent

The England selectors will sit down this evening and choose their first team of the summer - for the Texaco Trophy one-day internationals, the first of them at the Oval next Thursday. There are various doubts at the moment about fitness, these concerning Small, Broad, Foster and Richards. Gattling has chipped a little finger but will play.

By way of a reminder, the selectors are Peter May (chairman), Philip Sharpe, Mickey Stewart and Fred Titmus, with Gattling co-opted; and the team in possession - the one, that is, which played at Sydney in February, in the last of the one-day games for the World Series Cup - is, in batting order, Broad, Botham, Athey, Gower, Gattling, Lamb, Emburey, DeFreitas, Foster, French and Dilley.

England's one-day record in Australia was 11 wins from 14 matches, and the selectors will want, if they can, to show their confidence in those who achieved it. At the same time the side that played in Sydney does have rather an unusual look to it, with Botham going in first, French behind the stumps and Foster in the attack. I say that about Foster simply because he is not normally at his best in limited-over cricket.

The restriction on field

placing, which was behind Botham going first in Sydney does not apply in these Texaco games. In the World Series Cup there had to be seven fielders inside the circle for the first 15 overs of an innings. Taking the bowler and wicket-keeper into account, this left Botham with most of the deep into which to loft his strokes. In the Texaco Trophy only four fielders need to be inside the circle, which reduces the scope for Botham's aerial bombardment.

It would seem logical now to drop Botham back down the order and either send Athey in with Broad, as

happened more often than not in the one-day games in Australia, or to recall Gooch to go in first. Having gone to Sharjah last month and played for England there, there is no question of Gooch being put to one side for having declined to tour Australia. On the other hand he has had nearly three runless weeks and he has no divine right to a place.

I imagine Richards will be preferred to French, but that, with Small having had very little bowling this season, Foster will hold his place. Even off a short run Foster has been taking plenty of wickets

— or perhaps it is because of the short run. Small, remember, puts his selection for England last summer down to having shortened his run. The others who went to Sharjah but not to Australia, were Bailey, Capel, Fairbrother and Robinson, all in with a chance of being wanted again now. Whitaker has been doing well whereas when he was plucked from out of the blue last year he had hardly made a run for weeks. Christopher Cowdrey could be working his way back, though he probably has some way to go yet.

Because Lamb's recent one-day record is so much better than over the same period in Test cricket, he may be expected to survive, and I doubt whether England will include Edmonds as well as Emburey. Assuming only Small is definitely unfit and that 14 are chosen, to cover those with injuries of sorts, the likeliest combination could be: Broad, Gooch, Athey, Gower, Gattling, Lamb, Fairbrother, Botham, Emburey, Richards, Capel, DeFreitas, Foster and Dilley.

He presided over a department which injected enormous quantities of cash into the club, remaining in charge of business affairs throughout their struggles to stay in the First Division and the local recession in the motor industry. The schemes he set up grossed millions of pounds.

Add to that the large crowds attracted by the promotion team he skippered, plus the avalanche of support recently, including the FA Cup semi-final and final, and Curtis's contribution can be seen to be unsurpassed.

He would, I am sure, dispute it should anyone describe him as clever or even shrewd. His attitude is simple: if there is a difficulty, climb over it. If things go wrong, forget it and start again.

Those who have attempted to squeeze secrets out of him at press conferences are aware that if he does not want to tell you something you might as well pack up and go home. Recent examples: Q. If Houchen is fit, will you have a difficult selection problem? A. I wouldn't know. We have never had a problem here. Q. Will Gynn be in the team after scoring such important goals? A. Depends whether he beats me at golf on Wednesday.

Sillet will chuckle and pass you a glass of wine. They apply to enjoy being with me players, teasing each other unmercifully, pulling all kinds of pranks, and before major games, behaving like a golf society on a weekend jaunt.

It is reported that Sillet recently put on an outrageous beach top, a wig and a funny nose at a private do to win the silly shirt competition. For that, he received the Perrier Water Manager of the Day award from the players.

An odd couple, indeed. They have taken Coventry City to Wembley. In 104 years, nobody has done that before.

## Other half of an odd couple

By Dennis Shaw

The first time George Curtis arrived at Coventry City his journey began at the bottom of a pit shaft in the Kent coalfield.

He was a muscular, lantern-jawed youth with a GI crewcut who escaped a future as a miner to head Jimmy Hill's Sky Blues from the Third Division to the First Division. Later, after a spell with Aston Villa, he returned, this time to sell bingo tickets.

Curtis, as the club's managing director is the man at the head of all professional operations. When he was appointed to this role, alongside John Sillett, the coach, last summer, to run team affairs jointly, they became affectionately known locally as "the odd couple".

These two engaging characters don't have a stock of quick, flashy quotes, nor do they dangle gold bracelets from their wrists. Complicated excuses and brash forecasts are not their scene. Their stock in trade is experience. That and a store of good old-fashioned common sense and good humour. Curtis, for instance, has willingly done just about every job the game can offer. There is probably no better qualified administrator throughout the game.

As an apprentice pro, he cleaned boots, marked out the pitch, swept the terraces, supplied bags of tea to the older pros. Later, as captain, he broke his leg in the club's first match in the first division.

At Villa Park, where he was the captain, he helped lift them out of the Third Division. Once he smashed his nose and played on. Something of a soccer Samson was George but not, it seemed, the ideal choice to become the club's commercial manager. Yet when Hill returned as supreme, that was his surprising course of action.

Curtis's appointment was just a year or two ahead of the change in the lotteries legisla-



Curtis: engaging character

tion in 1976. He had learned the ropes selling those perforated, tear-off tickets. New new fields of income were legally opening up. He went to the United States, learned how they marketed lottery tickets and hurried back to be one of football's pioneers in that particular area.

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## MPs' worry over Big Four

By John Goodbody

A deputation of MPs yesterday expressed their concern to the Office of Fair Trading that the Big Four bookmakers were dominating horse and greyhound racing through their 45 per cent share of Satellite Information Services (SIS), which this month began screening race meetings to Britain's 10,200 betting shops.

The OFT must decide shortly whether to refer the situation to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission after a series of complaints and also debates in both Houses of Parliament.

The deputation told Sir Gordon Borrie, the OFT

director-general, of their concern that as the Big Four - Ladbrokes, William Hill, Coral and Mecca - also control 50 per cent of off-course betting and own four of the six greyhound tracks, on which afternoon racing takes place, this was an increasingly anti-competitive environment for the racing and betting public.

Accompanying the MPs was Fred Underhill, secretary of the National Greyhound Racing Club.

John Watts, the Conservative MP for Slough, a member of the group, said: "The slightly sinister aspect is that the company is controlled

by major bookmakers and will be betting races from greyhound tracks that are also in their ownership. That will work against the public interest, and particularly, against the punter and has no place in a market economy. It has the smack of monopoly about it."

"This is not in the interests of the small bookmakers, who clearly will have great financial difficulty and there is a danger of some closing. I also believe that if the big bookmakers have a monopoly there will be a decline in the number of other greyhound tracks."

## Stenmark hopeful

Stockholm (Reuters) - Ingemar Stenmark, of Sweden, is attempting to regain full amateur status so that he can compete in next year's Winter Olympics in Calgary. Stenmark, who has B licence semi-professional skiing status, has given up his private sponsorship contracts and rewriting them in favour of the Swedish team.

The contracts have been the main obstacle to his eligibility and Johan Sangner, the Swedish Federation's general secretary, said he had high hopes Stenmark would be admitted.

First up

Collado Villalba, Spain (Reuters) - Francisco Rodriguez of Colombia, won the 160-km mountain 21st stage of the Tour of Spain cycle race yesterday ahead of Pascal Poisson, of France. His compatriot, Luis Herrera, kept the overall lead



Stenmark: Olympics goal

## Prize recruit

Henry Leconte, of France, is the latest world-class recruit for the Bank of Scotland grasscourt tennis championships in Craiglockhart, Edinburgh from June 6 to 14. Ivan Lendl, John McEnroe, Andres Gomez, Gabriela Sabatini and Zina Garrison have also nominated to play.

## Helping hand

David Hemery, the former Olympic 400m hurdles champion, is joining the National Coaching Foundation to help develop its courses and raise funds. Sue Campbell, the foundation's director, said: "Our work is continually expanding and David will seek additional resources to underpin developments."

## Show stopper

Torrential rain forced the cancellation of the first day of Royal Windsor Horse Show yesterday. The four-day event is scheduled to end on Sunday.